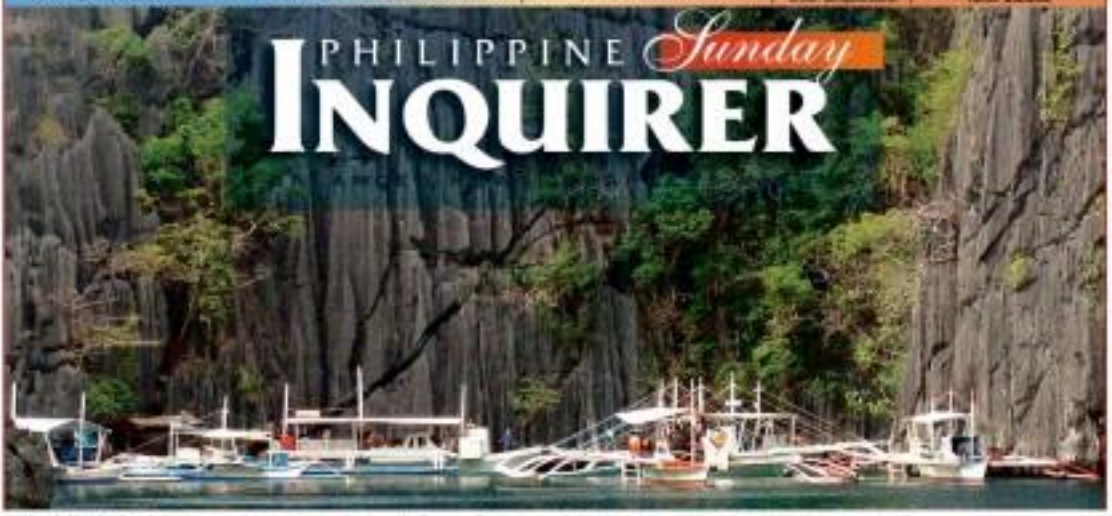
Sunday, May 20, 2012 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 161 P20 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER



THAT TOWERING FEELING The limestone cliffs towering over the sea and leading to the Twin Lagoons on Coron Island are some of the most breathtaking views in northern Palawan. AP / MARIANNE

Iglesia lobby doubted

BORN THAT WAY Lady Gaga arrives at Makati Shangri-La living up to her publicity. She did not hold a press conference. ANGELA B. PANCHO

By Pachalo Concepcion
Entertainment

CONTROVERSIAL pop superstar Lady Gaga arrived in Manila yesterday on board a private jet, which landed on a more secluded area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) amid a series of protests calling on Filipinos to boycott her two-night concert here.

Airport authorities said Lady Gaga arrived at the Naia Terminal 1 around 7:30 p.m. on board a Gulfstream IV business jet.

LIGHT, A3

Just a trick to acquit CJ–Palace

By Norman Bordadora

IT'S A SURPRISE. It's not surprising. A trick. Anyway, we are not bothered. So, ignore it. But whatever neither-here-nor-there reactions to the reported high-powered Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) lobby in the Senate to acquit Chief Justice Renato Corona, one thing is clear. The reactors do not want to be on the wrong side of the politically influential INC.

Malacañang wouldn't be surprised if certain people affiliated with the INC would lobby for the acquittal of Corona.

But a senior adviser to President Aquino doubts that the lobbying would have the approval of the religious group's leadership.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, a political adviser to the President, said the administration expected Corona to use every political tool available—even collect on past political debts—to influence senators on his impeachment trial ruling in mid.

"The impeachment trial is essentially a political process that is being played out in a highly charged political context."

MAYSAN, A11

How the dollar accounts were 'opened'

By Raul C. Pangalangan

(Editor's Note: This is a weekly review of the impeachment trial. It aims to help the public appreciate the legal issues and enable them to be engaged more meaningfully in this historic process.)

COMMENTARY

THE LAW says the dollar accounts are "absolutely confidential," and yet this week they were laid bare before the Senate. How this was done was a stroke of either genius or lawyerly cunning, depending on where you stand.

The prosecution was stumped by the all-encompassing language of the Foreign Currency Deposits Act: dollar accounts are absolutely confidential.

HOW THAT ALSO

Basa-Guidote: A story of betrayal in the family

By Ana Basa

(Editor's Note: Las Vegas-based Ana Basa issued this statement through business senior reporter Cynthia Balana.)

IT ALL STARTED when Cristina Basa-Guidote entered the picture at Basa-Guidote Enterprises Inc. (BGEI). Since 1993, her father, Vicente Basa, served as BGEI president and her mother, Asuncion Basa, was board secretary. The stockholders never questioned the propriety of the actions of Cristina's parents. For over two decades, everything was silent on the BGEI front. It

BASA-GUIDOTE, A10

Quest continues for grandma's identity

By Caty Petersen, Contributor

THIS IS my response to a short article that appeared in the May 16 issue of the Inquirer, regarding DNA tests done on the Romanovs, which supposedly "closed the case."

Just two points of clarification:

1) In the article I wrote (May 13, Page A1), nowhere did I make the claim that my grandmother was Anastasia Romanow. Last Sunday's catchy headline, "Filipina's Grandmama could be Russia's Anastasia," was purely an editorial decision, and the paper's prerogative, over which I had no participation. Having said that, however, let me point out that the headline used the word "could," expressing a possibility, not a certainty.

2) There appear to be other opinions which suggest that the case is not quite closed.

Although impressive and accepted by a number of people, there are

QUEST! A28

PH is best lab for extreme weather chasers

By Kristine L. Alave

A COUNTRY that gets hit by 20 typhoons every year may not be the best place to live for most people. But for weather enthusiasts and storm chasers, the Philippines' reputation as storm central has made it the best place to witness the power of nature.

Dr. Oliver Rasquinho, head of the Typhoon Committee office in Macau, said the Philippines, with its active weather and geological systems, has become a valuable source of knowledge for meteorologists and other scientists studying volcanoes, floods and people's responses to them.

"The Philippines is a country prone to natural disasters. We have learned a lot from the Philippines and with Pagasa ... The Philippines is the best laboratory for natural disasters," Rasquinho said in a recent interview.

Rasquinho, along with scientists from South Korea and Sri Lanka, visited Cagayan de Oro City recently to study the aftermath of Typhoon "Sendong." South Korea, the team said, will help the Philippine government install weather equipment in the region to prevent another disaster.

James Reynolds is a 27-year-old videographer from London who lives in Hong Kong. He has since toured Asia and has traveled to the Philippines several times to film the strongest typhoons in recent years as a freelance videographer for CNN and other news networks.

Reynolds, who also uploads his videos to YouTube under the handle Typhoonthomer, witnessed the destruction wrought by Typhoons "Pepeng" and "Santi" in 2009 and "Juan" in 2010. Those typhoons are considered among the most de-

PHENOMENON, A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

ENTERTAINMENT • **Gay** partner traumatizes star • **Chat** with Kristen Stewart in a real English castle **LIFESTYLE** • **Fashion** designer credits conversion to Sta. Rita de Cascia • **'Miracle child,'** one of PH's richest heiresses, finds life partner • **Self-made** billionaire Joseph Calata at 31 is PH's youngest to list his firm in PSE **NEWS** • **4 teens** killed in Ayala Alabang car crash • **Sotto:** Kissing not invitation to rape • **Lord** Mayor of London leads business mission to PH

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49	
1st draw	10 10
2nd draw	20 12
3rd draw	5 13
SUPERLOTTO 6/45	
1st draw	8 6 0
2nd draw	4 1 0
3rd draw	7 9 8

SIX DIGIT (Pesos only)	
	3 9 1 8 3 5
ULTRA 6/58	
	15 24 26 32 37 40
	P13,644,878.40
GRAND LOTTO 6/55	
	4 7 21 35 40 48
	P10,000,000.00

LOTTO: 5PM Tues-SM LOTTO, result to 6PM. PCSO.gov.ph

China on high alert over Faeldon trip

By Tina G. Santos

THE PLANNED "patriotic voyage" by former Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon to the disputed Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal or Bajo de Masinloc) has prompted China to go on "high alert" in the area.

"[We] will remain on high alert over the island to prevent any provocative behavior," Chinese's foreign ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said in a news conference Friday on the Chinese government's web portal.

Hong also said the "Philippine side" should stop such "irresponsible remarks and misleading unilateral behaviors."

Beijing earlier planned to hold a "patriotic voyage" to the disputed shoal—but was dissuaded from doing so by President Aquino in the last minute on Friday.

Presidential deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) was encouraging Faeldon to reconsider his plan because "it might be construed in a negative way."

The Philippine government has a policy of dissociation in the wake of the standoff with China over the shoal.

Hong reiterated that Huangyan Island—the name by which China refers to the disputed shoal—is "part of China's territory."

He also urged the Philippines to "come back to the right track of a diplomatic solution" to the ongoing dispute and "avoid dust and consistent damages" on the issue.

Sought for comment, foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said: "As we had said, we are encouraging to utilize diplomatic consultations in the hope that we can diffuse the current circumstances in Bajo de Masinloc."

"We believe that a more durable solution, however, would need to be a validation of our respective claims as provided for by the dispute settlement mechanisms under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea," Del Rosario said in a text message to the Inquirer.

On the other hand, Faeldon's spokesperson, Eli Guerrero, said that China appeared to be "overreacting."

"The voyage never took place because the President asked him not to push through with it," Guerrero said, adding that Faeldon's intention "was never to provoke or agitate, but to support the country's position in a peaceful and unarmed way."

"Even if it pushed through, there was no plan to raise our flag, but only to distribute relief in provinces there which is our right as citizens within our Philippine territory," he said.

Meanwhile, the Filipino community in Hawaii held a community forum at the Philippine Consulate last week to discuss current Philippine issues on the sea and concerns, more specifically those related to the disputes over Bajo de Masinloc and the marco-within its vicinity.

"The consulate made it clear that the purpose of the forum was not to counter or ignite anti-China sentiments but rather to provide a more academic perspective of the current issues between the Philippines and China," the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The consulate also assured that the forum was a private initiative of the community and not of the Philippine government, adding that many of those who attended expressed much appreciation for the initiative.

Invited speakers included Consul General Julius Torres, Dr. Serafin Colmenares Jr. of the Language Access Program of Kapiolani Community College, Dr. Fred Magdalena of the University of Hawaii, and Dr. Belinda Aquino, retired professor also of the University of Hawaii.

The participation included members of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association, Filam Youth Power, the academe and the media.

China holding over 500 container vans of fruit, not 150, say exporters

DAVAO CITY—Mindanao exporters said Friday the number of container vans of bananas that have been held for quarantine inspection by Chinese authorities since March was way over the 150 vans announced by Malacañang.

"How did it become 150? At the Shanghai port alone, we have a minimum of 500 containers were being held," said Anabelle Arrellano, secretary of the Mindanao Federation of Banana Exporters' Association (MBFEA).

MBFEA is made up of small exporters.

Stephen Antig, president of the larger banana exporters group Filipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association (FBGEA), echoed Arrellano.

"I think they (government officials) got the figures wrong," Antig said. "Definitely not just 150 container vans."

Antig said some 200 containers were being held in the ports of Dalian, Shanghai and Jiangsu province to be released in the Philippines.

"But we are still trying to confirm from what Philippine ports the containers were registered and whose shipments they were," he said.

Pilmo said that the government was hoping that there were only 150 container vans being held after Chinese authorities allegedly found a type of insect validating its earlier assertion in one of the vans, Arrellano said. "We were the ones who requested them to re-test. Here the figures."

"The figures were given to us by each of the individual exporters because each of us has our own volume and, grouped together, we came up with the total one," Arrellano, who exported 13 container vans to China, said.

Philexport Mindanao said it had notified the Department of Agriculture about the wrong figure so the government would correct its statement.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala during a visit here Monday said the quarantine procedure being implemented by Chinese authorities appeared to be a normal thing and the move had nothing to do with the Philippines-China standoff regarding competing claims in Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

He said that because it appeared the quarantine procedure were not political, the government would continue to encourage exports to China.

Germelina Lacorte and Judy Quirino, Inquirer Mindanao

Lord Mayor of London coming to boost trade

By Raoul M. Dancel

THE LORD Mayor of London will lead a business mission to Manila this week in light of the United Kingdom's policy of greater engagement in the Asia-Pacific, in large part Southeast Asia in particular.

The British Embassy said in a statement that David Wootton, who is in the middle of his year-long term, would be visiting to strengthen UK-Philippine partnerships.

In particular, the mission is focused on the promotion of British capabilities in the areas of public-private partnerships and financial and legal services, as well as the promotion of investment in the United Kingdom for companies looking to expand into Europe.

The Lord Mayor usually serves as the ambassador for all UK-based financial and professional service firms and part of his mandate is to spread those benefits to promote the city outside the United Kingdom.

The mission is also scheduled to visit other countries in Southeast Asia, along with Alan Yarrow, one of the two sheriffs of London.

Representatives from British companies with business interests in the Philippines will accompany Wootton, the 684th person to hold the office since it was founded in the 1180s, in meetings with heads of government agencies and business leaders.

According to the embassy, the mission comes during a special year for the United Kingdom, with London hosting the 2012 Olympics and Britain celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The United Kingdom has beefed up its embassy staff in Manila with an additional 62 members amid its policy of stronger involvement in Asia.

According to the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the six are part of 90 new posts that the United Kingdom plans to add across its network of missions in Asia within the next three years.

Kissing no invitation to rape–Sotto

By TJ Burgonio

If A CIDG officer herself is to be blamed on the first date, is that an invitation for rape?

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III asked the question yesterday as he expressed outrage at photos released by Senate minority spokesman Teofisto Guingona III showing him and a Filipina overseas hiring in the elevator before the alleged rape took place.

Citing the new spatial rape, Sotto told the reporters in a phone interview that the supposed outrage by the foreign diplomat was preserving was wrong. "If at the point of insertion, the woman says 'no' and you still do it, that's rape. That's the law," he said.

Sotto was a member of the administrative and technical staff of the Pasay (Ombudsman here).

The image grabs from a surveillance camera released by Sotto to the press showed him and the 19-year-old woman kissing in the elevator on their way up to his condominium in Makati City, where the alleged rape took place, on the night of April 27.

"If that came from the Panamanians, the Department of Justice should all the more be outraged," Sotto said.

In a statement e-mailed to the press, Sotto said he did not expect the victim was going with him or spending the night with him "to have sex." He said they joined and dined at her invitation, and she has accepted his invitation to come up to his apartment.

The victim had sought the assistance of the police who arrested Sotto the following day.

Prosecutors filed an information of rape against him in the Makati Regional Trial Court, but this was withdrawn after the Department of Foreign Affairs certified that Sotto had diplomatic immunity.

In last Thursday's hearing of the Senate foreign relations committee, Senators Loren Legarda and Sonny Angara asked Andrew Secretary Leila de Lima and Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis for quickly declaring Sotto' immunity in disregard of the victim's rights.

In a statement issued later to the day Sotto said he found it incredulous that Sotto, who claimed innocence, lost no time in leaving the country for Amsterdam on May 11.

"If no rape transpired, why did the accused leave the country immediately? Why did he get the Filipina drunk and to smoke marijuana before the criminal act was committed? Does it mean that when Filipinas kiss, they are soliciting to be raped?" he said.

The senator said the footage showing Sotto and the woman kissing was not proof that no rape happened. He said he had information that "the sex was stated that people were coming over to the room so there was nothing to worry about."

"It is unfortunate that the whole system, the government, our own department of foreign affairs and justice, and their officers, had joined the chorus against the victim rather than hear her story first," Sotto said.

"Colonial mentality is still with us. We believe a foreigner more than we believe a Filipina who made a sworn statement that she was raped and went through the hassle of filing a case in court," he said.

The senator asked: "Should Jovanie have the same rendition if a Filipino was accused of rape in Belgium?"

Ma. Teresa C. Roa; 58

MARIA TERESA "Tessie" Capuyan Roa died on May 16 in Cagayan de Oro City. She was 58.

She is survived by her husband Benjamin "Bobot" Roa Jr. and children Yousah Marie, Benjamin III, Noelle Ria Marie, Benjamin Diocleido and Michael Benjamin.

Rites was in cremation, reading/sermon by various colleges and serving as chair of accounting at Xavier University. She was active in community service and in the Christian family Movement.

She also worked with the Private Development Corporation of the Philippines and Hyco Plans where she was vice president for Go Thanyee and Mindanao.

Interment is today at 9 a.m. at Oro Memorial Gardens after the Mass.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday - May 25, 2014
Seventh Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1:1-11

In the first part of my work, Theophilus, I wrote of all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he ascended to heaven.

But first he had instructed through the Holy Spirit the apostles he had chosen. After his passion, he presented himself to them, giving many signs that he was alive; over a period of 40 days he appeared to them and taught them concerning the kingdom of God. Once when he had been eating with them, he told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the fulfillment of the Father's promise about which I have spoken to you. John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit within a few days."

When they had come together, they asked him, "Is it now that you will restore the kingdom of Israel?" And he answered, "It is not for you to know the time and the hour that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the earth."

After Jesus said this, he was taken up before their eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight. While they were still looking up to heaven where he was to, suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, will return in the same way as you have seen him go there."

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23 (or 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13)

I have not ceased to remember you in my prayers.

May the God of Christ Jesus our Lord, the Father of Glory reveal himself to you and give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that you may know him.

May he enlighten your inner vision, that you may appreciate the things we hope for, since we were called by God.

May you know how great is the inheritance, the glory God sets apart for his saints; may you understand with what extraordinary power he acts in favor of us who believe.

He revealed his almighty power for Christ when he raised him from the dead and had him sit at his right hand in heaven, far above all rule, power, authority, dominion, or any other supernatural force that could be named, not only in this world but in the world to come, as well.

Then has God put all things under the feet of Christ and set him above all things as head of the Church which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

Jesus' resolution

Jesus said, "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; the one who refuses to believe will be condemned. Signs like these will accompany those who have believed: in my name they will cast out demons and speak new languages; they will pick up snakes and, if they drink anything poisonous, it will be unharmed. They will lay their hands on the sick and they will be healed."

So then, after speaking to them, the Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven and took his place at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied them.

Reflection

Read

• (Mark 16:15-18) Jesus gives his disciples the mandate to proclaim the Good News before he returns to the Father in heaven. They were not sure when to continue the mission of Jesus.

Reflect

• The risen Lord empowers us to continue his good work on earth. But many are reluctant and intimidated by many setbacks. The mandate of the risen to evangelize is imperative and important.

Pray

• In your prayer you will discover the presence of the risen Lord. Pray to evangelize him in your personal and daily life.

Act

• Look for the presence of the risen Lord in the community of the Church, in people close to you, and in people in need. Then will find him.

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Colleges may offer senior high courses

By Tarra Quismundo

COLLEGES are looking into various schemes to adjust to the Department of Education's (DepEd) Kindergarten to Year 12 (K to 12) basic education reform program, among them by offering a senior high school course based on the department's curriculum, an education official said.

Assistant Secretary Jesus Mateo made the suggestion as the DepEd girds for the phased implementation of K to 12 in Asia, beginning with the introduction of new curricula for Grades 1 and 7, which is now First year high school.

"We are open to one year of no college enrollment," Mateo told the bayanan. "So what happens is the colleges and universities? One model is that Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will be licensed to offer the additional two years, especially for those students who will go to university."

"For example, you're in fourth year now and based on the assessment, you are fit to enter university. You will then take your Grades 11 and 12 in the university of your choice," the official said.

The difference is that senior high school (systems) schools will be at par, while public senior high school will be offered for free, beginning school year 2016-2017.

K to 12 aims to produce more qualified high school graduates by adding mandatory public kindergarten and two years of senior high school to the current 10-year elementary high school cycle.

To the additional two years, students may take up their choice specialization and then opt to join the workforce upon high school graduation, or pursue a college education.

Enrollment subsidy

Under the student-being-fed-for-HEIs, Mateo said the government may also subsidize the students' enrollment to private senior high school under the Government Assistance to Student and Teachers in Private Education (Gastpe).

"Instead of building additional classrooms, we will pay for the space in private schools that will now offer Grades 11 and 12," said Mateo.

Another option is for instructors and professors of colleges and universities to handle classes in Grade 11 and 12.

"We're already at the stage of fine-tuning those three models," Mateo said.

Private colleges and universities that will offer Grades 11 and 12 will have to get a license from the DepEd, he added.

He said private schools may even start offering the two additional grade levels ahead of the DepEd, acting as they are prepared with a curriculum compliant with the department's design and have facilities and trained teachers to handle the classes.

"They can already start that. It's OK if they start ahead of us. It's not a question of who starts first but, rather, how ready are we? It's the entire country that will benefit from this," said Mateo.

need a job?

Correction

IN THE MAY 19 2012, the front page banner story—"INC 'lobbying for GI acquittal'"—misstated that Manny Guevara was the brother of Imelda Estevia and was a member of the Iglesia Ni Cristo. Manny is not related to the former assistant prelate and is not a member of the religious group.

Far Eastern University and De La Salle University congratulate Elaine Marie G. Laceda for placing 9th in the 2011 Bar Examinations and the MBA-JD graduates for obtaining a first-time passing average of 84%.

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Lady Gaga blows into town amid protests

From page A1

Unlike her previous visit to Manila when she took a commercial flight, superstar Gaga was chartered to the country's premiere airlift her from Taipei, where she had just performed two concerts as part of her "Born This Way Ball" world tour.

Airport records revealed that the chartered aircraft docked at Remote Parking Bay 20, which is secluded from public view, keeping her away from the media and the public.

From the airport, the flamboyant singer-songwriter went straight to Makati Shangri-La hotel where she is billeted for the duration of her concerts scheduled tomorrow and Tuesday. Hundreds were spotted at the hotel after she dropped briefly at the entrance to sign autographs for screaming fans.

The visitor, whose net worth at the end of this month is estimated at $58 million, is due to perform at the Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City, has generated protests and threats from various religious groups including bishops of the Catholic Church due to her provocative image and songs.

'EDGE OF GLORY' Fans line up at Makati Shangri-La to ogle Lady Gaga. MARLO ALAVEZA

'Blasphemy'

Some 200 Christian youths marched in Manila yesterday morning for the second straight day, chanting "Stop the Lady Gaga concerts." They held placards urging the pop diva to "respect our faith, stop the blasphemy."

The protesters were on their way to the line up until police stopped them near the hotel representing the Mall of Asia complex.

The Bible-Inside Youth Philippines members also plan to hold a vigil starting today near the massive concert venue. They say they are offended by Lady Gaga's music, particularly her song "Judas," which they say insults Jesus Christ.

On Friday, leaders of various organizations under the United Christian Groups held a press conference and accused Lady Gaga of "spreading everything that is corrupt and demonic."

They called on authorities to stop the concerts. Catholic leaders, meanwhile, asking the faithful to boycott the shows, which, they said, would promote godlessness.

Much of their misplaced rage was focused on Lady Gaga's song "Judas," a track from her 2011 album "Born This Way," whose music video features a stylized Biblical story line in which disgraced wife Mary Magdalene caught between her allegiance to Jesus and an attraction to Judas Iscariot.

Authorities have assured that the concerts last past they won't allow lewd acts.

Misconceptions

Ronen de Dios, head of Ovation Productions, organizer of the concerts, sought to clarify what he said were misconceptions of people on Lady Gaga and her concerts.

On Friday, he told the reporters that Lady Gaga just like other artists. Strikes an controversies. He recalled the rumors surrounding the 29-year-old singer when her predecessor first concert in Manila two years ago. "The rain back then was filled with the same negative talks. Did it deter dirty it? No. She went along with the rumor flow we all know that it was just rumor. Today she's thought of as god who belongs to a satanic cult. Again she's not denying. We should know better. The controversy is working."

The promoter pointed out that the "Judas" music video "is very tame, compared to other videos by R&B and hip-hop artists. "If you're paranoid, everything is evil to you. And why is nobody making a fuss over vampire movies? Why single out Lady Gaga?"

Born Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta to New York, Lady Gaga was raised a Roman Catholic and attended convent schools.

She has been quoted on the Internet service provider MSN Canada, explaining her references in writing the controversial song "'Judas' is a metaphor and an analogy about heterosexual and bisexual and things that haunt you in your life, and how I believe that it's the darkness in your life that ultimately shines and illuminates the greater light that you have angry you."

'For adults only'

Her Manila concert is are part of the ongoing "Born This Way Ball" tour, which opened in Poland. She's before this concert, express to Kidwas called Outlaws Network only and it as "too homosexual and pornographic" that could "lured young people." The state agency Metro Manila Film Festival Board declared it as a "for-adults-only" show, with the promoter refunding 2,000 out of the 44,000 tickets sold.

A scheduled performance on June 3 in Jakarta is in limbo after Indonesian police refused to grant organizers a permit, citing warnings from hard-line Islamic groups.

In a statement sent to the media on Friday, de Dios confirmed that the Manila shows "will be staged as scheduled despite isolated calls from certain groups for their cancellation."

He explained: "While we respect the beliefs and positions of these organizations on certain fundamental issues concerning morality and decency, we work to assure the general public that the performances of Lady Gaga will not pose as a threat to their sense of morality and decency – especially the youth – as these groups have warned.

Artistic expression

"We appeal for greater understanding and ask the public to treat the musical and theatrical arts of Lady Gaga as authentic and legitimate forms of artistic expression which have enjoyed acceptance and acceptance among millions worldwide.

"The 'Born This Way Ball' concert is no exception, and we are confident it will also be appreciated by local audiences once it is staged." With reports from Nonoi Lacaba and AP

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Veteran radioman Lito Balquiedra; 70

By Kristine Felisse Mangosing

VETERAN dzMM broadcaster Lito Balquiedra Jr. or LBJ, as he was fondly called, died of a heart attack at a hospital in Pasig City on Saturday.

According to a dzMM radio report, the former disc jockey was rushed early in the morning to The Medical City after suffering a heart attack.

He was soon reached hospital personnel for confirmation but was given the runaround.

According to the report, doctors tried to revive Balquiedra but to no avail.

It said Balquiedra was 70 years old. He is survived by Maria Clara, his wife, and his two daughters.

Balquiedra's remains lie at Christ the King Parish Church in Gesmalcahon avenue in Quezon City, the report said.

PH is best laboratory ...

From page A1

struction options to hit the Philippines, sinking coastal and northern Luzon as they crossed the island.

Reynolds also records volcano eruptions and the aftermaths of earthquakes. He grew up in London, where the weather is more stable. Abnormal weather from the Atlantic such as wind and storm systems had always piqued his interest. He moved to Asia in 2006 to study in Taiwan, where he saw his first tropical storm. Like the Philippines, Taiwan is in the path of storms that form in the Pacific.

"The eye of the storm passed quite far north, but the wind and rain were still ferocious in Taipei city," Reynolds said. "After witnessing that event, I wanted to get much closer to the heart of the storm and to witness the latest technologies and devices of the eyewall accumulating the eye of the storm," he said.

"Very humbling"

His videos show the fortes of nature to people who have not seen tropical cyclones. His pictures of uprooted trees, rushing floods, and surging seas show the awesome power of nature at work.

"Typhoons are an incredible force of nature unleashing far more power than mankind could ever achieve," Reynolds said. "To be able to witness one deliberately is not easy and is sometimes quite dangerous. However it's awe-inspiring to see what nature is capable of. It's also very humbling and puts mankind in its place, especially as when there is unfortunate damage to people's lives and property."

Reynolds is not the only one who has found the Philippines attractive for extreme weather. Scientists have flocked to the country ever since typhoons and other natural disasters.

To balance world weather

Hasegawa said typhoons are often seen as extreme because of the destruction they cause in communities that are not prepared to cope with them. But they are part of nature and are needed to balance world weather.

Typhoons also help in transferring energy from the lower latitudes to the higher altitudes, he said. "They help break droughts, they fill our dams," he said. Without typhoons, countries in the lower latitudes will get warmer, while those in the north will get colder.

Hasegawa stressed that Filipinos must be prepared to face extreme climactic events. While climate change studies have yet to prove conclusively that the Pacific will see more and stronger typhoons in the long-term, the concept of climate variability in this part of the world has been observed, he said. This means that the Philippines should expect to see more typhoons in the years to come.

Hasegawa said the government should put early warning signals in vulnerable places. He noted that in the case of Sendong, which claimed 181 lives in Cagayan de Oro, there were no rain gauges in the river systems and in the mountains that could have alerted the people downstream of the possibility of floods.

False sense of security

The community he should also be educated about the risks and be warned of incoming typhoons, Hasegawa said. The fact that typhoons rarely visit northern Mindanao has given residents there a false sense of security, which led to the loss of hundreds of lives when Sendong came last December.

In charting storms across Asia, Reynolds said he had seen how people often underestimated the threat of severe weather. "The biggest threat is when tropical storms hit areas which are not used to them, for example in December last year when Sendong hit Mindanao, it killed many people, mostly because the area is not [used] to getting as many storms as, for example, northern Luzon," he said.

The changes, Reynolds said, usually come after the fact.

"Sadly it normally takes a catastrophic event for people to change or improve their reactions to severe weather," Reynolds said. "In 2010, Typhoon Juan killed over 20 people in Taiwan when their bus was swept off a mountain road. Now the Taiwanese police close most mountain roads during a typhoon to help prevent similar catastrophes."

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UN cites Pinoy peacekeepers

THE LATEST batch of Filipino peacekeepers in the Golan Heights received medals from the United Nations (UN) in recognition of their service to peace and security in the troubled Middle East region.

The peacekeepers—the fifth contingent sent to that area—left Manila Tuesday barely three months after being deployed under the UN Disengagement Observer Force (Undof).

"The awarding of medals to contingents in the Golan Heights is symbolic and a token of appreciation given by the UN to contingents for their contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in the region," the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a statement.

The Philippine contingent forms part of the UN peacekeeping force composed of troops from Austria, Canada, Croatia, India and Japan.

Those unspecified were tasked by the UN Security Council with maintaining the ceasefire and supervising the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the so-called area of separation and limitation between the two parties.

Lt. Col. Ramon Isrella, commanding officer of the Philippine battalion, led the troops during the medal parade.

Philippine Ambassador to Israel Generoso Calonzay and Maj. Gen. Rolando Ecarma III, head of mission and Undof force commander, were special guests.

The Philippine contingent was deployed in February 2012 and will finish its tour of duty in August 2012.

The 189, and the deployment of Philippine troops to the Golan Heights, especially amid the so-called Arab Spring, was a challenge and a source of many courage and endurance.

Since the 1950s, the Philippines has sent peacekeepers to Bosnia, Congo, Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Dafur, Georgia, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Kuwait, Kosovo, Nepal, Sudan and Timor-Leste. Tina G. Santos

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Answers for life.

Gov't monitoring quality, prices of school supplies

By Jerry R. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry (DTI) has intensified its monitoring of the prices, availability and quality of school supplies in public markets, where most parents go for bargains, ahead of the opening of classes next month.

In a statement, the DTI explained that it customarily heightened its market monitoring operations to ensure adequate supply and stable prices of school supplies whose sales usually peak in May.

According to the DTI, it is working closely with other government agencies such as the Department of Health's Food and Drug Administration, Department of Education and local governments units to keep a tight watch on distributors and retailers of school supplies to prevent unreasonable price hikes and the proliferation of unsafe school items.

A list of suggested retail prices (SRPs) of selected school supplies has been published to guide retailers and consumers.

Based on the May 1 SRP guide and depending on the brand and type, composition notebooks with 80 leaves should be priced between P10 and P15.75 while prices of writing notebooks with 80 leaves should range between P14.75 to P15.75.

Aside from prices, the DTI also checks the quality and labels of school supplies.

Under Republic Act No. 7394, or the Consumer Act of the Philippines, manufacturers and distributors must comply with the minimum labeling requirements which include the name and address of the manufacturer, trade or brand name, type or size of product, country of manufacture, quantity, cautionary warning and instructions for use.

Other markings that school supplies should bear include the class of paper (uncoated, book, bond), number of leaves for notebooks and school pads, handsome symbol for backboards, the word "nontoxic" on crayons, and zip classification for ballpens.

Meanwhile, the FDA is keeping watch to ensure that harmful chemicals that may be found in school supplies are within tolerable levels. Otherwise, it could issue a "stops and detain order" and confiscate the goods.

Annual school cleanup starts

By Tarra Quismundo

THE DEPARTMENT of Education is calling on the public to support Brigada Eskwela, the yearly schools maintenance week that starts in Mandaluyong Monday.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro called on students, parents and other stakeholders to take part in the annual schools cleanup, set from May 21 to 26, to prepare some 41,000 public elementary and high schools nationwide for the opening of classes on June 4.

The DepEd said the simultaneous cleanup would focus on upgrading sanitation facilities and improving the schools in indigenous communities.

"The difference this year is we're focusing on hygiene and on ES (indigenous peoples) because we want all (with) aged 5 to 15 to have access to education... Pir lasos than hygiene and health are very important. If a child is sick, how will he or she go to school?" said Assistant Secretary Jesus Mateo in an interview.

He said schools should repair their classrooms and sanitation facilities or build additional rooms if they have the funds.

The annual cleanup is an opportunity for a community to "come together and help in making schools conducive to learning.

"Equally important, it hopes to evolve the 'bayanihan' spirit among Filipinos by engaging the participation of education stakeholders in the community. The benefits of schools involvement in many sectors of society, this is why we encourage everyone to participate," said Luistro in a statement.

Luistro will lead the Brigada Eskwela at Aniceto Lobban Elementary School in Pasig. Manila, tomorrow morning, along with Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, United Nations Children's Fund country representative Tomoo Hozumi and Manila Rep. Amado Bagatsing.

Private organizations have also expressed support for the program, including Philippine Business for Social Progress, Chamber of Mines and United States Agency for International Development.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Manipulation of Luisita costs seen

Lawyer Monsod cites studies showing overvaluation of lands in estate

By Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A lawyer of a group of farmworkers in Hacienda Luisita said the government should study the right price of home lots in the sugar estate after documents showed that there were different values for agricultural lands and home lots there in 1989.

The year 1989 was used by the Supreme Court as the year of reckoning for setting land value in computing the just compensation for Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI), a firm owned by Presidential Speaker's family.

The court, in an April 24 resolution, upheld for the third and final time the decision of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) in 2005 to revoke the stock distribution program (SDP) as mode of agrarian reform in the estate and ordered the distribution of 4,915 hectares of land to 6,296 farmworkers.

Citing studies of a London School of Economics professor and financial documents from HLI, lawyer Christian Monsod, a volunteer counsel for the farmworkers' group **Bukluran Movement (BMM)**, said home lots in the sugar estate were valued at P500,000 per hectare in 1989 while farm lots were for P98,000 a hectare that year.

Monsod said the author (Bryan Ganz) came to the same property the government should determine if it is right to pay P500,000 a hectare for the home lots given by HLI to 6,296 farmworkers in 1989.

The Supreme Court has ordered the government, through the Department of Agrarian Reform, to pay HLI just compensation for its home lots using 1989 prices as basis.

"It's a strange rationale," said Monsod of the P500,000 price per hectare. "I trust the [SAR] will read our data valuation."

He said in 1988, a year before the SDP was implemented instead of actual land distribution, under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), each hectare in the sugar estate, originally spanning 6,443 ha, cost only P51,000.

Monsod said, if the DAR would use P500,000 as the value of each hectare of home lot in Hacienda Luisita, the agency would have to shell out P60.5 million in taxpayers' money for a total 121 ha as beneficiaries of farmworkers losing HLI shareholders.

Farmworkers hold 33 percent of HLI. The majority 67 percent was controlled by Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco), a holding company of the Cojuangcos.

Monsod said MARPC Sept. 20, 2011, memorandum informed the court of the disparity in land values based on information cited in Dr. James Putzel's "A captive land: The politics of agrarian reform." The former de Manila University published the book in 1992. Putzel serves as director of the Crisis States Research Center at the London School of Economics.

On the latest tussle, Monsod said, even "unregulated," citing a review of Putzel's data and those that former Solicitor General Frank Chavez used to defend the SDP in Hacienda Luisita.

Monsod said the manipulation happened when HLI and Tadeco overstated the 1,127 ha they excluded from the SDP and which they then subdivided as landowners' share. The 121 ha covering the home lots are part of those excluded lands.

On the other hand, Monsod said HLI and Tadeco undervalued the 4,915 ha that they allowed to be covered by the SDP and which they assigned in form of shares of stocks to farmworkers.

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Running priest to P-Noy: Sack incompetents in gov't

By Dolly T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

TAYABAS CITY—Before he starts a solemn life as a monk, activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes offered a piece of unsolicited advice to President Aquino—cut off ties with incompetent BIR (Bukingpil-Bukluran-Bukasan) and Bureau-mik (whatever).

"This is unsolicited advice to President Aquino: Between now and the end of his term, he should start dismissing the government of his incompetent friends and relatives," said Reyes in a phone interview there on Thursday.

Popularly known as the "running priest" for his penchant in delivering protest rants on a variety of social and political issues, the priest urged Mr. Aquino to put competent people in his administration that could help him chart the tumid no dame (right direction) he (reportedly) is following.

Reyes said subtle he believed in the sincerity of Mr. Aquino, he is starting to see crooked ways leading to anomalies in governments.

He said keeping incompetent relatives of the President in government is defeating Mr. Aquino's campaign for good governance.

"If P-Noy won't be tough, he could not strengthen cop about following the crooks' path. In the end, he will be the one who will be involved in anomalies," Reyes said.

He said there were just too many people in government who want to maintain the crooked ways of the past.

ALMOST: priest Fr. Robert Reyes (in blue shirt) in his elements during a protest rally aimed at pressuring President Aquino to sack the so-called Bukadilla 5, a group of alleged communist-bic men convicted of killing one of the Marcos regime's most feared martial law enforcers, Rolando Kintanilla.

"P-Noy is up against the people who have been using the system to their advantage," added Reyes.

He said Mr. Aquino could still reverse his course as daan-patay but only if he was willing to make sacrifices. "He should really say no to all who want to take advantage of their vast watchlist," the priest said.

The activist priest said he would soon enter the convent of a religious order to fulfill a vow as a novice. "But I will be back. When I return, hopefully, there would be less cheaters and promoters he use to run."

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Slaying of antimining leader in Samar leaves cops guessing

By Joey Galvez, Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The May 1 killing of an antimining leader in Salcedo town, Samar province, remained unresolved as police had yet to identify the assailant and the motive.

Senior Insp. Jimmell Corvina, Salcedo police chief, said police were pursuing "all leads" in investigating the killing of Francisco Gumpong, who was stabbed to death on May 1 by a still unidentified suspect.

Gumpong, 66, was the leader of the Gandapugan Movement for Development Association (Gamade), an antimining group based in Salcedo town.

"There is no development months so our investigation is still ongoing. The witnesses are willing to come out and help us," Corvina said in a phone interview on Thursday.

Gumpong was leaving the house of a friend and was taking a tricycle ride when the suspect stopped him, boarded the tricycle and, without any warning, stabbed Gumpong several times in the chest and back, leading to his death.

The suspect fled after the attack that took place past 2 p.m.

Corvina said police were looking at several possible motives for the killing of Gumpong, a resident of Barangay Canquipon, Salcedo.

"His involvement in the antimining campaign is one of the angles that we are looking into," he said.

Corvina declined to comment further on the case as investigation was still ongoing.

The victim was also the head of the Salcedo Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association and Barangay Inner Upland Farmers Association of Salcedo.

Two mining companies, Terrestrial Mining Corp. and Nonfos Mining Corp., were operating chromite mines in Salcedo.

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Team in Reyes manhunt endures lack of support

By Redempto D. Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The small group of government agents that was gathered around a table in a coffee shop spoke almost in whispers, obviously discussing confidential matters.

The men belong to a group of tracers whose single biggest assignment is to bring in fugitive Joel T. Reyes, former Palawan governor, and his brother, Coron Mayor Mario T. Reyes.

While they keep key pieces of information on the hunt for the Reyes brothers top secret, there is one thing they couldn't hide—feeling abandoned by national officials.

While top officials of the national police, led by Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, have been publicly announcing government support for the hunt for the fugitives, there appears to be no centralized group coordinating the manhunt and mobilizing all government resources to nab the brothers to court for involvement in the murder of broadcast journalist Gerry Ortega.

"We contribute basically on our own. We have little coordination with the PNP (removal of) first or any other law enforcement group," said the leader of the group, who asked not to be identified.

If there were other police units tracking down the Reyes brothers, the source said he did not learn were out source of it.

Members of the group—from the local police, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the city's Special Operations Unit (SOU)—were never formally organized but have been working together since they were separately assigned to handle the investigation of Ortega's killing in January 2011.

They shared pieces of information as they trickled down reports and pieced together eyewitness and also the number that had led to the identification of the former Palawan governor as the alleged mastermind.

They relied on limited funds provided by their agencies and have little or no national support.

Still, they managed to arrest one of former Governor Reyes' key aides who had been in hiding and absolutely changed with murder at the Palawan Regional Trial Court.

"We don't know if there are other law enforcement groups looking for the suspects. But I doubt there are any, otherwise we should be coordinating," said the group leader.

On Thursday, Senior Supt. Generoso Cerbo Jr., national police spokesperson, was quoted as saying the manhunt for the fugitives and other high-profile fugitives was continuing.

"Maybe they (PNP hierarchy) are referring to us. But basically, we operate locally without any support from the PNP," the group's leader said.

He admitted his team had not received even intelligence data support from other government agencies and had to rely on their own network of resources.

Operating in Manila, rounds of their base in Puerto Princesa, for several weeks about a month, ago had led to the capture of two key suspects—Arnore Regalado and Val Leviste. Both were aides of former governor Reyes and were identified as being involved in the actual operations that led to the killing of Ortega on Jan. 24, 2011.

Regalado, the group leader said, talked to surrender on April 11 after realizing the trackers had identified his hideout in Manila.

About two weeks later, Leviste was tagged after the group tracked him down in a safe house in Pasig City, Metro Manila.

Asked if they have solid information on the location of the Reyes brothers, the group's leader just smiled to evade answering the question. He said, however, that the fugitives were still in the country.

President Aquino last Thursday admitted "shortcomings" in the government's drive to apprehend the perpetrator fugitives like the Reyes brothers.

A HOUSE lies upside down in Pinamungajan, Cebu province, after strong winds swept it and several other houses off their sites during a freak storm in the town southwest of Cebu City. TONEE GUINTO/CDN

Freak storm brings balls of ice to Cebu town

By Carmel Loise Matus
Inquirer Visayas

PINAMUNGAJAN, Cebu—Angelina Abadies was doing her usual household chores past noon on Thursday when the skies turned dark.

Then there were thunder and lightning, followed by heavy rains and strong winds. Suddenly, Abadies heard objects falling on the roof of her shack. They were no ordinary objects, but balls of ice the size of marbles that pounds in Abadies' community hadn't seen falling from the sky before.

"The wind was so strong. I couldn't even lean on something because of the force of the wind," said the 67-year-old Abadies.

The wind and hail lasted for 10 to 20 minutes. When it was over, 50 houses were destroyed while 170 others were damaged in Barangay Lamac, Pinamungajan town, 64.4 kilometers southwest of Cebu City.

Lamac village chair Elisha Flores-Cantores said that based on her tally, 94 families have lost their homes, mostly made of light materials.

Cantores said her house was swept about 15 meters off its site. Carpenters doing repairs inside the house suffered bruises, she added.

Abadies said her daughter, Juliet Bisnar, 33, who was three months pregnant, and 4-year-old grandson, Joevis, were inside their house when it was swept by the wind.

The house was found along the road, beside a mango tree, about 15 meters from where it once stood.

Abadies found her daughter curled up in a ball, trying to protect her son. While the boy was not harmed, Abadies was worried about the condition of her daughter who suffered bruises and scrapes and of body pains.

She said Bisnar fell flat on her back when the house hit the ground.

"We ran once it stopped. We were unprepared," said Abadies.

She said it was the first time that such a phenomenon happened in Barangay Lamac in the 30 years she had been residing in the village.

A weather observer of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) based on Mactan Island in Cebu admitted that what happened in Pinamungajan was unusual because hail usually occurs in temperate and not tropical regions like the Philippines.

Christopher Arriagas of Pagasa said very dense clouds called cumulonimbus are known to produce hail storms.

Ice crystals that formed in the clouds didn't melt into liquid to become rain because the clouds were too close to the ground.

For ice crystals to melt and become rain, Arriagas said clouds containing these have to be at least a kilometer above the ground.

AH EMPLOYEE of a cooperative in Pinamungajan, Cebu province, shows balls of ice the size of marbles that he collected after the freak storm in the town. CDN

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NEWSBRIEFS

BOHOL

Suspect in dance-slay held

POLICE on Thursday arrested a construction worker in Calapidan, Bohol province, for the killing of a son of Candijay City Mayor Nicasio Aguna on May 13.

Jay Boy Lauron, 29, admitted he shot Earl Princess Aguna following an altercation on the dance floor in Barangay Valladolid, Candijay.

Lauron, a resident of Barangay Cacheda in Cebu City, said he went to Valladolid to visit his relatives. The village held a benefit dance for its fiesta on May 13.

Lauron said he was dancing with his friends when a stranger angrily challenge him to a spot dance.

"He was envious of my dancing. He challenged me to a spot dance," he said.

Lauron admitted he was intoxicated during the scuffle's initiation.

Ignored that he would be shot first, Lauron said he took out his firearm and shot the victim in the head.

He fled to Calapidan town where police caught up with him. Chief Insp. Teodulo Mendez, Candijay police chief, said Lauron died in his custody. —Alex D. Arogon, Inquirer Visayas

DAVAO CITY

Firm upbeat on mining start

Nel TIONKIN ISC Development Corp. (Nedcor), said it had submitted a declaration of Mine Project Feasibility (DMPF) study to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

The submission was announced recently by Nedcor director Conrado Catalbog, who is past chair, and heads an investor group that controls over 50 percent of the company.

"We are designed to have submitted the DMPF to the DENR and MGB, and are pleased with the successful completion of this major milestone, which will enable us ... to accelerate the development of this flagship mining project," Catalbog said in a statement.

He said that when fully operational, the King Kong project in Pantukan town "will bring many benefits to the Philippines, particularly the Pantukan community and Compostela Valley province."

Si Augustine, a mining firm listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange, is a partner in the project. Its team played key roles in developing and managing some of the largest and latest mining projects in the world, Catalbog said.

Catalbog told Nedcor and SI Augustine were thankful for the "support we have been receiving from all the government agencies, the community and the stakeholders in the project." Inquirer Mindanao

ALAMINOS CITY Mayor Hernani A. Braganza holds a trophy after winning the 2011 Fr. Hot Satur Award for Environmental Heroism along with broadcast journalist Arnold Clavio, who won the same award in the media category, during ceremonies last month at the Philippine Bread Carving Museum office. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INQUIRER Mindanao

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John Jon Kandayoni
Bureau Chief Nina R. Alcantara

Searching for 'lumad' tales, songs, dances

By Christine Godoves-Ortega
Iligan City

MY STUDENTS, who went on a literary journey in search of "lumad" lore, songs and chances, were told to experience what it's like in the contamination of indigenous peoples (IPs or lumad) and to take home memories of our recent visit to three of Mindanao's IPs.

Recently, I had hoped that all ten of my students in Silk Literature at Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) would eventually choose and study one out of 13 lumad groups in the island.

We took the grueling four-day trip across central, western and southern Mindanao to visit schools for living traditions of the Talaandig in Bukidnon, Lanao-gan, Bukidnon; of the B'laan in Koronadal City in South Cotabato; and of the T'boli in Lake Sebu, also in South Cotabato.

Talk with scholars

With Intel's supporters in Davao and General Santos Cities, the class likewise interacted with scholars: Dr. Rita Tobias-Tinong (Ateneo); Dr. Macario "Mac" Tiu, for lumad culture; and Dr. Heidi E. Gloria, for Bagobo culture.

With all of today's distractions and priorities of our productivity-conscious-oriented society, it is not easy to convince students to study lumad literature, and Gloria, at an Ateneo de Davao University faculty lounge where we stopped for a brief meeting with her, glowed with hope at the prospect of an women determined to do spadework for new material, or bring out new perspectives about the lumad.

Tiu and Tobias, who met us earlier at the University of Southern Philippines, were likewise so encouraging in suggesting that a folklore society be established for better coordination in further study and publish more of the lumad literature, recipes and other information.

Fortia Lajarito-Gonzales, a Jimo Mayon from Tawi-tawi and first-time visitor to the lumad communities, reposedly said, "A lifetime experience for me who lives by the sea, who travels by sea."

Cultural Guards

From Iligan City where we set board and after six hours on the road, our first stop was in Impasug-ong, Lantapan, Bukidnon, to schedule a visit to the Cultural Guards, guardians of the forests, to renew their vows and for the people to preserve and defend the Talaandig heritage.

This ritual was presided over by Datu Migkoyap "Vic" Saway who, throughout the ceremony, had beside his wife, Bai Lira Livok Saway.

Chickens and a pig were offered. My student, Kinsey Allen, observed that when blood oozed from the reddish red, leaves from the tallest tree overhead fell quickly to the ground... an indication, perhaps, that the "diwata" (deities) were pleased with the offerings.

White plates containing betel chew were passed around immediately for everyone to partake.

When the sporadic interviews with some of Datu Vic's sisters were done, Cheryl Balcita and Mona Fernidora brought out the snacks for the children who were about to perform songs, like "Ang Tribung Nisa," and dances (making use mats at the School for Living Traditions with Teacher Flora, who, incidentally had recently passed the licensure examination to be teachers.

Talaandig life

Yes, most of the youngest members of this cultural community have gone to our schools and they have taken it among themselves to teach their own children the Talaandig alphabet, history, tales, songs and dances.

Everywhere in Sanggo where the Talaandig live, evidence of growth could be seen in the new structures built over the years with support from Asia Together Society and the Korea International Cooperation Agency. Peaceful coexistence is the main theme, giving much meaning to the Hall of Peace made from hardwood, its exterior decorated with sculpted figures.

Within these structures, sculptured carvings represented mythic figures of an ideal pair juxtaposed with the reality of the ritual outside that sought to ensure the survival of the Talaandig from envious threats of modernization and economization.

Other cultural artworks, photos and certificates were displayed around the "tabugan" hosted behind the Living Traditions, also called Datu Kindlemag Hall after the Talaandig patriarch.

B'laan people

This passion to preserve one's culture also prevails among the B'laan and the T'boli of South Cotabato. The following day, we trekked to the hills of Koronadal and Lake Sebu.

In all these visits, arrangements had to be made. As a group, we had to contribute for the snacks and tokens for the performers and a donation to the school.

In Koronadal, Yvonne Allen Cecile negotiated for our group and prepared the tokens and snacks for the performers before we were allowed to go up Sitio-pay Bolol (mountain) where the B'laan people live, 8 kilometers from the city proper.

The uphill climb was a series of uneven roads that were, for the most part, unpaved and just cleared of debris. From that vantage point, we glimpsed more and felt the views of the city below which are labelled in our minds "reality" and "civilization."

Our guide, Delia Jimenez Lawsin, a staff member of Councilor Angie Monday, the first B'laan to be elected president of the Association of Barangay Captains, brought us in to Tri Unit Trinity Catholic Mission for Indigenous Peoples.

Catholics, too

We were surprised to learn that 98 percent of the B'laan there are Catholics. Apart from the spirited conversations in B'laan among themselves, their antics and the manner by which they interacted, they were like any group of Catholics making the Sign of the Cross, kissing broadly they knew their catechisms.

One of the songs about the B'laan god was performed but instead of referring to the B'laan god the second time it was sung, the singer had Jesus Christ in mind, according to Lawsin.

My class, composed mostly of language teaching and linguistics majors, like Cara Ulpo, Vivilleen Rivera, Dominica, Shiddie, Allen and Gonzales, had fun taking down names of instruments, songs and dances, and a creation story, noting the existence of the "y" sound and use of the "f" sound in B'laan words.

A feast of songs and dances and the playing of indigenous musical instruments followed and performed by children as young as 8 years old and adults as old as 76.

In reality, many B'laans people have integrated into the mainstream and are not proud of their ethnic origin since they are vulnerable to ridicule and prejudice by the Christian majority, a familiar experience among other IP groups.

T'boli school

Reflecting on this sad state of affairs, we drove to Lake Sebu to check out the T'boli School of Indigenous Knowledge and Traditions (Sibal) which opened in 1997 and now has 128 pupils. The other school, unfortunately closed at the time of our visit, the School for Living Traditions, is for nonformal studies. Our visit was facilitated by Michael Angelo Kimbak, the Sibal principal.

With little support from the local government, which, according to one of my classmates, concentrates on recreation, Sibal is accredited by the Department of Education and is supported by foreign groups, the Ateneo Alumni and other donors who pay for its teachers, provide scholarships for the children and support a feeding program.

Inside the school, the skill and natural rhythm of the children playing the drum and other musical instruments made from bamboo were simply overwhelming. The strong belief in their gods and the acknowledgment that their talents came from a higher power were demonstrated by the children who would touch the musical instruments before and after playing them.

One of the community leaders, Alamin "Ojong" Bali, said the T'boli learn from the old people and pass them on to the children. She hopes that the local government would listen in order to help uplift their lives through education.

Show of pride

After a restful stay at Sarangani Highlands Resort arranged for us by General Santos City's Dr. Annamin Ghadzon Ali, we crammed once more into the school van, returning to Iligan via the Bukidnon-Davao Road, and stopping only for a quick dinner at Kenji's Kennahj, hosted by MSU-IIT School of Computer Studies dean Ernie Ringig. The restaurant owner and a chemist, Jess Ng Jr., was there to greet us.

The long trip that normally took only nine hours from Davao City to Iligan took 12 hours due to endless road repairs along the national highway. Despite the difficulties and expenses in fuel and other things, our visits cemented our respect for the lumads' strong sense of self-determination and show of pride for their own.

T'BOLI master-play musical instruments.

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2:15 White Lies
3:15 Love You A Thousand Times
3:45 Pink Lipstick
4:30 Sharon, Kasama Mo Kapatid

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Time for Tim

EDITORIAL

IN A country where every little Filipino connection is obsessively celebrated, it is amazing that Tim Tebow is relatively unknown. Not only was the American professional football player born in the Philippines, he is also among the most widely popular athletes in the United States. He is likewise known for his Christian faith and has triggered a worldwide phenomenon called "Tebowing," which has people in the strangest places aping his trademark football pose of kneeling on one leg after a touchdown, and posting the images online. Everywhere else, he is everywhere—but not here.

This should change. One of the good things that distinguish him from the others is his continuing devotion to charity work in the country of his birth. Together with CURE International, his Tim Tebow Foundation is building a 30-bed hospital for children in Davao City that will rise $3.1 million (or P134.4 million), with the two nonprofit organizations shouldering much of the costs. The hospital will provide medical services for children that the poor people of Davao cannot afford. "I'm very excited about the project," Tebow has said. "This hospital will change the lives of thousands of children in the Philippines."

And that is only his latest attempt to help Filipinos. Even when he was starting to become a prominent college athlete, Tebow managed to visit the Philippines with hardly anyone recognizing him—doubtless due to the relative obscurity of American football in a basketball-mad country. Without fanfare he would visit and help out at Uncle Dick's Home, an orphanage in Sorsogon, South Cotabato, that his missionary father, Bob, founded in 1982. He would play with the orphans, teaching them to throw a football and generally serving as their inspiration—without benefit of publicity and promotions.

Even his beginnings were heartwarming. When his mother, Pam, herself a missionary, was pregnant with him, complications led doctors to suggest that she terminate the pregnancy. But the choice to carry the baby to full term, and in 1987 Tim Tebow was born in Makati City where he lived for three years. He grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, in the United States, where he was home-schooled and eventually became an athletic prodigy. Able to run as well as throw, he became hugely successful at the University of Florida, leading the Gators to two national championships and winning the Heisman Trophy as the best college football player in America.

Tebow's unorthodox style led pundits to dismiss his prospects as a pro after he was picked 25th overall by the Denver Broncos in 2010. After starting his career as a backup, he became a national sensation—the hero was dubbed "Tebowmania"—when he started for the Broncos in 2011, leading the team on an unprecedented playoff run punctuated by his fourth-quarter heroics. After being traded to the New York Jets earlier this year, Tebow now looks forward to the next stage in his sporting career.

But he was never just about the game. His frequent and potent statements about his being a Christian made him a charismatic and controversial subject, but amid all the hate about his unbroken rise to stardom, he was never heard mentioning his charity work back in the Philippines as a reason to gain attention.

There have been other athletes who spurn their time in the American limelight but were not as giving or humble. The golfer Tiger Woods, for example, made waves and a fortune as a mixed-race athlete but never spoke up on important issues such as race and equality; subsequent revelations about his private behavior make him anything but a role model for young people. Tebow, on the other hand, has not shied away from the challenge of being a role model and has performed charity work without using it to burnish his image. In this country where many celebrities engage in not only sinful but also scandalous behavior in public, Tebow is an excellent example of what the young can achieve if they are clear-eyed, motivated and compassionate.

Here is one Filipino connection worthy of celebrating. The next time "Isaya Tatang" teaches him with the antipasto in Scrabble, he should be recognized, not for his fame or fortune, but for how he has given of himself to helping our own indigent children. It's not a pose, but a real person who truly knows how to give back. As he says, "I always have a special place in my heart for the country where I was born."

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Corona's word

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

TOMORROW'S issues, tomorrow's enemies of the senator-judges is probably as crucial to the impeachment case as the much-anticipated testimony of the accused, Chief Justice Renato Corona. We may recall that some of the senators, after hearing the explosive testimony of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales, expressed a need to verify her findings by summoning the head of the Anti-Money Laundering Council or the bank managers themselves.

That need may not have the same urgency now because of Corona's decision to finally take the witness stand. But summoning the bank managers and asking them to disclose the contents of the accused senator's free notes, should it be a point one grows the case against him, could trigger—including a possible head-on collision between the Senate impeachment court and the Supreme Court. The high court had earlier issued a temporary restraining order on the disclosure of Corona's bureau-secrecy accounts. The Senate opted not to challenge this TRO, but my sense is that it is not averse to going against it if the need arises.

A lot depends on what information Corona himself is prepared to provide in his testimony. He will be asked to confirm the existence of dollar accounts under his name. His lawyers will object, citing the absolute confidentiality of such accounts. He will then be challenged, to a public official on trial, to authorize the banks to disclose all his accounts. He will decline...as humbly as possible—citing his constitutional rights.

There is a big downside to this strategy. Corona's lawyers may be able to score political points by invoking their client's constitutional rights, but only at the cost of making him appear evasive. If he reasonably in his answers, the public will take it against him. Damaging as the worst thing one can do in a public impeachment trial. The defense knows that it has the urgent task of disputing the Ombudsman's findings. It is hard to imagine how this can be done by merely denying that the Chief Justice had anything to do with the transactions documented by the AMLC.

Corona's lawyers have been telling the media that Ombudsman Morales' testimony is of dubious probative value. They are saying that a scientific interpretation of the raw data from the AMLC would yield a very different picture. Up to this point, the defendant is being performed outside the courtroom. When the final version on Tuesday, will they present their reading of the AMLC data using Corona's testimony as platform? But how would they do this without their client's admitting that some of those transactions are his?

My expectation is that, if and when he gets to the point of testifying at all, Corona will admit to owning a few, not $1, dollar accounts. He will try to show that these funds all came from legitimate sources. He will argue that these assets are not his personally but belong to his whole family. He will then say he felt no obligation to declare them in his annual statements of assets, liabilities and net worth because these are covered by the absolute confidentiality of foreign currency deposits. He might even challenge his detractors in Congress to submit any of them have declared dollar deposits in their SALNs.

The prosecution and the senator-judges will, however, not let the issues raised by Ombudsman Morales' testimony be dismissed so easily. In view of competing interpretations of the same set of raw data, they will argue that the best way to determine which one is valid would be by opening the bank accounts themselves. The Senate clearly wishes it did not have to come to this point. But if the accused refuses to authorize the disclosure of his bank assets, there may be no choice but for the impeachment court to subpoena them.

What this case comes down to, in the last analysis, is the credibility of the Chief Justice's explanation of the assets found under his name—where they came from and why he did not report them in his SALNs. If the cases indicted were not to be nor as staggering as the Ombudsman's report shows them to be, he will definitely survive the impeachment. If, beyond this, he volunteers to authorize the banks to disclose all his deposits even before he is asked to do so, he will gain the public goodwill that has so far eluded him. The public might then be inclined to treat the nondisclosure of those deposits in his SALNs as nothing more than a lapse in judgment, rather than as a grievous impeachable offense.

As I have repeatedly pointed out in previous columns, because impeachment is as political as it is judicial, it is impossible for the senator-judges to ignore public opinion. When there is plausible deniability of wrongdoing, the senators who are genuinely vacillating will go for an acquittal. But if the accused's much-anticipated testimony amounts to nothing more than a closer examination of using the law to suppress evidence, not even the most sympathetic senator-judge will find it easy to justify a vote of acquittal.

The Chief Justice is not like an ordinary citizen who is vulnerable in all kinds of criminal cases. A difficult process, impeachment is the only way to make him accountable. But the moment he is stripped of his high office (such as the point of being impeached), the burden of showing his fitness to remain in this exalted position rests heavily on him. Unless he faces the charges squarely and explains himself adequately, he will forever remain tainted even if there is any not-for-material crime to actually take him out. As Chief Justice, his word would mean nothing.

* * *

public.live@gmail.com

Tellers

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a man who declared that he does not entrust his money to banks for safety and security. When asked why, his simple reply was: "There are many tellers there."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 16, 15-20), Jesus said to His disciples: "Go to the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." Our ascension mandate is to go to the whole world and TELL the world of His love!

* * *

Today is Ascension Sunday, when the risen Lord was lifted up to heaven and took His seat at the right hand of God. Our final destination is to be reunited with Him someday. However, prior to that, we still have to accomplish our mission. And mission not yet accomplished. We still have some tasks to finish.

* * *

Today is also World Communication Sunday. Modern technology and media have made the world a smaller place. However, loneliness is still one of the biggest plagues in our modern society. As it is, our upward mobility into communicating with the world intensifies, and have little or no time communicating with the people around us.

* * *

Communication is not just about talk, noise, or gadgets. In fact, some of the deepest and profoundest communications happen in silence and in stillness. Ours is a fast and restless world. Let us give space for our spirit to breathe in silence, reflection and prayer through which we communicate with the Divine and with our real selves.

* * *

Last May 16, I had Mass at the "Kanlay at Dinner" Shrine in Lubkan, Quezon, a place for healing started by Fr. Jerry Teller. Thousands of people go there to be in touch with the Divine. Aside from the impressive grounds and development of the place, what I found interesting was the Stadi's Ark chapel, where I celebrated Mass. There is no cell phone signal inside the church but as soon as you step out, the signal is strong. The message is clear: Inside the church the only important communication is that with God.

* * *

By the way, there is an increasing number of people getting sick with "nomophobia" (no mobile phobia). The symptom of this phobia is extreme attachment to one's mobile phone, the absence of which could drive one to panic, become anxious, or become disoriented. It's scary the number of mobile phones could make some people feel immobilized.

* * *

Speaking of communication, we had a case of a "lost shepherd" on our way to Quezon: four of our priests were left behind in the restaurant where we had made a toilet stop. Presumption was the culprit, with the passengers of each of our two vans thinking that he was in the other. We realized his absence in our journey when we received his frantic text message: "I have been left behind. Come back!"

* * *

In a way, the Ascension underscores the reality that we have been "left behind" by the risen Lord but with a promise that He would "come back" for us at the final judgment. In the meantime, we have the mission to go forth and tell the world that we have not been orphaned or abandoned by our Loving God!

* * *

The Ascension Mountain in Arimadom is the last place where the risen Lord stood before He was lifted up to heaven. In fact, there is a stone there with a footprint which is said to be that of Jesus. Whether this is true or not, what matters is that the Lord has left His heartprint on His disciples. We, too, will do well to remember that what matters most are not so much the monuments, documents, or achievements that we leave behind as the moments and heartprints we leave in people's lives.

* * *

SINGER-SONGWRITER FE MALTEZO JAMES SARCHE is such an inspiring and uplifting phenomenon. This fragile-looking, simple, humble girl reminds us that there is strength in gentleness, and that hard work and faith can make us rise above whatever obstacles we have in life. Mabuhay ka, Jessica! Tina!

* * *

I like best the song "Dance with me Before" that was sung by Jessica Sanchez in the semifinals of "American Idol." She sang it with such a great voice, and with so much heart. The song itself is a beautiful reminder for me of our earthly fathers, and of our Heavenly Father who awaits us after our earthly pilgrimage. Sir, life on earth has a reason and season.

* * *

The message of the Ascension is powerful. Let it empower us to rise above and look beyond whatever obstacles or liabilities that come our way. The Ascension message should help us move on with confidence and with hope. The Ascension is all about not becoming stagnant or clinging to the past. What praises must carry is we have then our Lord telling us, "I am with you always until the end of the world!"

* * *

Jhanny Maranda invites you to a Lay Is-rano on May 28, 9 a.m. in 12 more, at Ateneo Hall. (Tanay the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Blvd, Edsamon, Quezon City. The topic: Mental Health Concerns in the Elderly by Dr. Dennis Santos-Ringor, geriatrician, St. Luke's Medical Center, Quezon City. For inquiries, please call 373-2263, 998-2348, or 09174167940.

* * *

Amazement with the Lord:

Lord, thank You for calling me 'Your Son.' Do me as call me world likewise. Amen.

Will Corona testify?

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

IF I'D see, I cannot fathom why the lawyers of Chief Justice (CJ) Renato C. Corona called Commissioner (COMM) Cayetano Paredes to the witness stand. In a litigation, a party presents a witness to prove its allegations, or to contradict the evidence of the opposing side.

OMM as witness. The cardinal rule is never to call a witness whose testimony is not known, intended, even and a question when you do not know the answer. But the exact opposite happened. Obviously unexpected by the defense, the OMM did not help the CJ's cause. Quite the contrary, she demolished it.

Tellingly, the OMM testified that she had obtained documents from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) showing that the CJ had several dollar accounts not disclosed in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN(s)).

To obtain these documents, the OMM used her constitutional mandate to investigate any public official whom act or omission "appears to be illegal, unjust, improper or inefficient." She also obtained the CJ's SALN(s), which contained her "no dollars and cents" from all appropriate government agencies ... documents that show [the CJ's] assets, liabilities, net worth, business interests and financial transactions."

Allowed unanimously by the Senate to use a subpoena duces tecum, she explained — in unemphatic terms, understood by ordinary citizens — that these accounts had "transaction balances" of between $1.8 and $1.2 million.

These were culled from the million and zillion of banks in the 82 accounts of the CJ's five banks. However, these 82 accounts may not have existed simultaneously; some may have been closed and the balances moved to other accounts. Also, the $1.8-$1.2 million may in fact be more than the *current* balances. Remember, the issue is whether the dollar balances were reported by the SALNs and whether they are disproportionate to his legal income and lawful assets.

Hostile witness. Ironically, those damning OMM testimony and AMLC documents were not made in 2003-2012. So, legally speaking, she did not directly provide proof of the yearend balances. By studying these blanders "blunted" or "exaggerated" the figures. Corona would be admitting the existence of the dollar accounts. Worse, once on the witness stand, he would be asked to prove to the yearend balances, thereby providing conclusive proof of his failure to disclose them.

On the stand, too, Corona would surely be questioned on his dollar accounts in Pilbank, which are covered by a Supreme Court temporary restraining order (TRO). Violating or hamstringing his credibility, he could not refuse to give his consent to the inquiry because of his repeated promises to have all his accounts. Thus, the TRO and the entire Supreme Court can then justify but him would become academic. This would then be the perfect and ideal question: on the many dollar accounts he ought up by Hondos.

His testimony may be fodder for future cases, criminal and otherwise, that may be filed against him. He would be his gain because his counsel cannot object to the testimony of his own witness

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to ... Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

OMBUDSMAN REPORT

Did CJ amass ill-gotten wealth?

(Editor's Note: Below are excerpts of a 20-page report by a team from the Office of the Ombudsman on the wealth of Chief Justice Renato Corona that it says "is not commensurate to his known income." Ombudsman investigators placed Corona's total "possible unexplained wealth" from 2000 to 2012 at P44.7 million.

The Chief Justice has denied amassing ill-gotten wealth.

The Ombudsman furnished Speaker Feliciano Belmonte with a copy of the report on May 17, hoping this could be used in initiating another impeachment complaint against Corona in December.)

THE INCOME received by Chief Justice Renato Corona from 2000 to 2011 as justice of the Supreme Court, member of the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET) and member of the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) may be summarized as follows:

Table 2: Corona's income (2002-2011)

P21,626,781.45

- Income including allowances and other benefits from the Supreme Court and as member of the Judicial Bar Council from April 9, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2011, as certified to by Supreme Court Chief Judicial Officer Atanelo Bajenga.

P1,696,333.38

- Income from GIT from Feb. 28, 2008 to April 20, 2009 as certified to by BIR secretary Rene Isaguirre.

P3,399,887.85

- Income from HRET from Jan. 2, 2007 to Feb. 27, 2008 and from April 20, 2009 to December 2009 as certified to by Cebu Gaisano.

P210,000 Honorary June 2011; **P242,560** Daily Dec. 2011

- Income from the Office of the President for 2011.

Total: P27,145,472.68

It must be noted, however, that at least a fraction of the amount received by Corona from the Supreme Court pertains to allowances and expenses which must be liquidated with the government.

Meanwhile, the income earned by Cristina H. Corona per the alpha list submitted by Jobis Bay Development Corp. (JBDC) with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is as follows:

Table 3: Cristina's income at JHDC

- 2007: P625,157.50
- 2008: P1,024,303.00
- 2009: P1,106,201.15
- 2010: P469,980.98

Total: P3,225,647.45

Thus, the combined income of spouses Corona may be summarized as follows:

Table 4: Combined income of spouses Corona

P27,145,472.68

- Income of Renato Corona:

P3,225,647.45

- Income of wife Cristina Corona:

Total: P30,368,120.13

Spouses Corona received yearly compensation income. As declared by the Chief Justice in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs) and per records with the BIR, the Investment of Trade and Industry and the Securities and Exchange Commission, he has no connection with any business entities.

Notwithstanding, Corona consistently declared in his SALNs that his wife is connected with Basa-Guidote Enterprises Inc.

Net worth based on SALN

The table below shows the increase/decrease to Corona's net worth based on his SALN from 2000 to 2010:

Table 5: Increase/decrease in Corona's net worth

Year	Assets	Liabilities	Net worth	Increase/decrease of net worth
2001	P14,868,000	P1,000,000	P13,868,000	
2002	P14,868,000	0	P14,868,000	P1,000,000
2003	P40,368,000	P1,000,000	P39,368,000	P25,000,000
2004	P40,368,000	P1,000,000	P39,368,000	0
2005	P48,368,000	P39,000,000	P9,368,000	P9,000,000
2006	P49,568,000	P8,000,000	P41,568,000	P1,200,000
2007	P49,568,000	8,000,000	P41,568,000	P1,400,000
2008	P52,168,000	P8,000,000	P44,168,000	P1,600,000
2009	P52,168,000	P3,000,000	P49,168,000	P5,000,000
2010	P52,868,000	0	P52,868,000	P8,270,000
			Net increase in net worth =	P8,870,000

Bank accounts

With respect to the bank accounts under the name of Corona, the following information was gathered through instructions generated during the impeachment trial:

Table 6: PSBank accounts

PSBank Kalipunan branch

Account number	Account type	Opening date	Opening balance	Closing date
080-030-03368	PSTC	Jan. 26, 2009	P5,000,000.00	Apr. 16, 2009
080-030-09080	PTD	Dec. 22, 2008	P6,000,000.00	Dec. 22, 2011
080-030-09122	PTD	Mar. 4, 2004	P5,000,000.00	Apr. 25, 2011
080-030-0308	PTD	Sep. 1, 2010	P1,000,000.81	Dec. 22, 2011
080-030-09262	PTD	May 16, 2007	P5,000,000.00	Oct. 2, 2008
080-030-09368	PTD	June 26, 2007	P11,000,000.00	Dec. 17, 2010
080-030-09468	PTD	July 23, 2010	P1,000,000.00	Sept. 1, 2011

PSBank account number 0891230 17008 was opened on Jan. 26, 2009, with an opening balance of P5,000,000. The account was closed on April 16, 2009. The account had zero balance by the end of 2009.

PSBank account number 0891210 10583 was opened on Dec. 22, 2008, with an opening balance of P6,500,000. By 2009 yearend balance was P6,500,000. In 2010, yearend balance was P11,586,314.56. This account was closed on Dec. 12, 2011.

PSBank account number 0891213 02160 was opened on Sept. 1, 2010, with an opening balance of P1,000,009.45. The 2010 yearend balance was P7,160,200.81. This account was closed on Dec. 12, 2011.

PSBank account number 0891210 7557 was opened on May 16, 2007, with an opening balance of P5,000,000. This account was closed on Oct. 2, 2008.

PSBank account number 0891203 03.22 was opened on March 4, 2010, with an opening balance of P5,700,000. This account was closed on April 25, 2011.

PSBank account number 0891213 02161 was opened on July 23, 2010, with an opening balance of P7,376,436.03. The same was closed on Sept. 1, 2011.

PSBank account number 0891210 5048 was opened on March 4, 2010 with an opening balance of P5,700,000. The account was closed on April 25, 2011.

In the same light, Corona maintained Express Checking Account No. 1440-0020-01 with BPI Ayala Avenue Branch since 2005. As of Dec. 31, 2010, this account had a yearend balance of P12,834,045.30.

The deposits in BPI and PSBank are comparatively bigger than what he declared in his SALNs as cash. Table 7 shows the discrepancy in Corona's bank accounts.

Table 7: Discrepancy in bank accounts

Year	Total yearend balance	Amount declared in SALN	Amount of discrepancy
2007	PSBANK ACCT. NO. 0891210 10583 (PSBank account 0891210 10583)	P5,000,000.00	P5,000,000.00
2008	PSBANK ACCT. NO. 0891210 10583 (PSBank account 0891210 10583)	P5,000,000.00	P5,000,000.00
2010	PSBANK ACCT. NO. 0891210 10583; PSBANK ACCT. NO. 0891213 02160; PSBANK ACCT. NO. 0891210 75557; PSBANK ACCT. NO. 0891203 03.22; PSBANK ACCT. NO. 0891213 02161; PSBANK ACCT. NO. 0891210 5048; BPI ACCT. NO. 1440-0020-01 (Express checking account 1440-0020-01)	P5,000,000.00	P38,710,481.84
Total			P38,710,481.84

In relation to the bank accounts of Corona, this office sought the assistance of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC). Per reply letter dated March 7, 2012 and per subsequent discussion with AMLC officials, they required further information and supporting documents to determine the covered any underlying unlawful activity by Corona to warrant the filing of an application for bank inquiry with a regional trial court pursuant to Sec. 11 of Republic Act No. 9160 (Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001).

However, based on information obtained by the Honorable Ombudsman, it appears that there are several dollar and peso bank transactions in the name of Corona. The aggregate value of the dollar bank transactions dated April 14, 2005 to Dec. 22, 2011 amounted to more or less $36 million (around P828 million based on the current prevailing exchange rate).

The aggregate value of the peso bank transactions dated April 16, 2003 to Feb. 9, 2012 amounted to more or less P262 million. Thus, the total possible unexplained wealth of Corona for the period of 2000-2012 may be summarized as follows:

Table 8: Summary of possible unexplained wealth (2001-2012)

Details	Amount
Net increase in net worth (See Table 5.)	P8,870,000.00
Add: Discrepancy in bank deposit (See Table 7.)	P38,710,481.84
Add: Dollar bank transactions dated April 14, 2005 to Dec. 22, 2011	$36,000,000.00 (@ P828,000,000.00)
Add: Peso bank transactions dated April 16, 2003 to Feb. 9, 2012	P262,000,000.00
Less: Combined income of spouses Corona (See Table 4.)	P30,368,120.13
Total possible unexplained wealth	P44,712,361.71

Real properties

On his SALN for 2010, Corona declared and described the following real properties:

Table 9: Real properties

Kind	Location	Year acquired	Mode of acquisition	Assessed value	Current fair market value
House & lot	QC	1993	Donation	P10,000	P7,500,000
Condo 1	QC	1987	Acquisition	P45,000	P45,000
Condo 2	Makati City	1992	Acquisition	P45,000	P45,000
Condo 3	Taguig City	2004	Acquisition	1,431,000	1,500,000
Condo 4	Taguig City	2010	Acquisition	P2,400,000	P2,400,000

Corona further indicated in the SALN that they sold two parcels of land in Quezon City to purchase/pay the lease for condominium units 4 and 5. It appears that the two parcels of land refer to the following properties but declared in his 2009 SALN which were reportedly sold to spouses Rudolf V. Rivera and Amelia E. Rivera for P6 million and spouses Constantino T. Castillo II and Ma. Cielo C. Castillo for P38 million.

Table 10: Sold real properties

Kind	Location	Year acquired	Mode of acquisition	Assessed value	Current fair market value
Land	Quezon City	1990	Installment	P15,000	P6,000,000
Land	Quezon City	2000	Purchase	P400,000	P6,000,000

CHIEF Justice Renato C. Corona and his wife, Cristina

In relation thereto, the Land Registration Authority revealed the following properties under the names of spouses Corona which were acquired during the period 2000-2010:

- Condominium Unit No. 305, Multiflora, Bellagio I in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. It was acquired for P14,501,025 sometime in 2009 and covered by condominium certificate of title (CCT) No. 134-2009000861 consisting of 105.5 square meters and with three parking lots at 12.50 sq m each. This property may be the one referred to as Condominium No. 4 in Corona's 2010 SALN.
- Condominium Unit No. 1902, 19th Floor, Spanish Bay Tower 1 in Bonifacio Ridge, Taguig City. It was acquired for P8,159,948 in 2005 and covered by CCT No. 33852 containing an area of 112.00 sq m and with one parking slot. This property may be the one referred to as Condominium No. 3 in Corona's 2010 SALN.
- Condominium Unit No. 33 B, Tower 1, The Columns on Ayala Avenue in Bel Air, Makati City. It was acquired for P3,568,931.42 in 2004 with an area of 48 sq m and with one parking slot. This property may be the one referred to as Condominium No. 2 in Corona's 2010 SALN.
- Condominium Unit No. 21 H, One Burgundy Plaza in No. 307 Lopeda Heights on Batiquinan Avenue in Quezon City. It was acquired for P2,750,800 in 2003 with an area of 62.70 sq m. This property may be the one referred to as Condominium No. 1 in his 2010 SALN although he indicated therein that the same was acquired in 1997; and
- A parcel of land on Block 10, Lot 28 in Bluestone Street in La Vista, Quezon City. It was acquired for P2.1 million in 2003 and covered by transfer certificate of title No. 377948[1] containing an area of 1,200 sq m. It was subsequently sold to spouses Constantino T. Castillo II and Ma. Cielo C. Castillo for P38 million in 2010. Notably, Corona declared in his 2003 SALN a liability amounting to P2.1 million, representing a cash advance from Basa-Guidote.

By can be noted, Corona did not indicate the acquisition cost of the foregoing properties in his SALNs. Using the acquisition cost to the computations of his assets acquired during the period 2001-2010, the same may be shown as follows:

Table 11: Condominium properties with respective acquisition costs

Kind	Location	Year acquired	Acquisition cost
Condominium 1	Quezon City	2003	P2,750,800.00
Condominium 2	Makati City	2004	P3,568,931.42
Condominium 3	Taguig City	2009	P8,159,948.00
Condominium 4	Taguig city	2009	P14,501,025.00
Total			P28,979,704.42

Analyzing the accumulated wealth of Corona for the period 2001-2010 by using the acquisition value of the acquired assets and the bank transactions in comparison to the supposed income earned and known income from 2001 to 2011, it is apparent that he acquired wealth that is not commensurate to his known income.

It is also worthy to mention that the daily cost of living commensurate to the social station of the Coronas family as well as the various hotels abroad of the spouses have not yet been taken into account. Thus, if we are to include the same, it would significantly increase the total possible unexplained wealth.

Further, although there are numerous properties registered under the names of Corona's children, particularly Ms. Charina and Ms. Carla, these were used predominantly taken into account as having part of the assets of the spouses considering that Ms. Charina is reportedly a physical therapist in the United States and that Ms. Carla's husband is a physician.

Despite the opportunity given to Corona by the Honorable Ombudsman to explain the allegations and information with respect to his alleged bank accounts and transactions, Corona failed to submit any written answer.

The undersigned investigators respectfully submit that the foregoing findings may involve a violation of Republic Act No. 9160 as amended by RA 9194 (The Anti-Money Laundering Act). In addition, the acquisition of wealth by Corona appears to be grossly disproportionate to his known income as a public officer.

THE PHILSTAR did what was in the mansion and the daughter's economy will retreat to a contraction in remittances because demand for Filipino workers abroad remains significant.
—BSP Gov. Amando Tetangco Jr.

GLOBAL Pinoy

Gilda Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Facing up to discrimination

Instead of being discouraged, the Filipino nurse decided to work hard and study to acquire administration-related skills

By Charissa Uysal
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—When she first worked at a nursing home in Wayne, New Jersey, Evelyn Galicia had encountered racial discrimination from her coworkers.

"Some Americans think of Asians as inferior. But it's up to you if you will take that as a challenge or (consider) defeat. I took (it) as a challenge," said the 49-year-old Galicia, a native of Naval town in Biliran, in an interview conducted through the Internet.

Despite her determination, the road was not smooth for Galicia, who has been working in the United States for 23 years.

The Filipina nurse decided to work abroad to help her family. She was also raising a daughter single-handedly.

Galicia had been working for only two years with the Philippine Heart Center, which hired her immediately after she graduated in 1981 from the Cebu Normal University, when she was recruited by Arcelus Hamilton Park in New Jersey as a staff nurse.

Faced with discrimination in the work place, the Filipino decided to prove her coworkers wrong. She worked hard and took administration-related courses.

Slowly, Galicia rose from the ranks, eventually becoming head nurse. She was transferred to the hospital's management department as a supervisor and later as a director and assistant administrator-officer.

After 21 years at Atrium, Galicia accepted the offer from Wayne View Care Center, a nursing home in New Jersey to be its administrator, with the authority to hire new employees. The position enabled her to hire more Filipinos.

She pointed out that Filipinos abroad were diligent workers. They accepted any work-related challenge and would find a way to accomplish the task assigned to them.

She said being an administrator allowed her to help many Filipinos who, "I believe, are very smart and hardworking."

Ethics, not English

But she said Filipinos had to overcome their insecurity over their inability to converse well in English.

"Filipinos have to realize that work ethics is more important than the ability to speak English as fluently as the Americans," Galicia said.

For providing jobs to Filipinos in New Jersey, Galicia was named in 2011 Pinoman of the Year in the nursing profession by the Bro. Armelian Converted Filipino in Action League Inc. (Pacul).

According to its web site (pacul.org), Pacul is a "multi-service organization" that aims to assist and address the health and human service needs of Filipino and other Asians in Jersey City.

Organized in 2000, it was partly funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the Jersey City Division of Community Development, the web site said.

Just as she intended, Galicia's success benefited her family. When she started to earn more, she brought her daughter to the US. She also continued to support her parents in Biliran, sending them a monthly allowance until they passed on. Her father Isidro died in 1987 and her mother Carolina, in 2004).

GALICIA was accompanied by her son when she accepted the Pacul award.

She later had a son in the US whom she also raised as a single parent.

Her daughter is now a physician and is back in the Philippines. Her son, who will be in college next year, stays with her in the US.

"The secret in juggling roles as a mom and a worker is time management. Lay out your plans and make sure you (accomplish) them," she said.

After working with Wayne View Care Center for only two years, differences with the chief executive officer made Galicia leave. She was then offered the position of wellness director of the Hamilton Park Care Center, another nursing home facility in New Jersey.

Galicia said she planned to return to the Philippines after she retired from this new job.

"I just couldn't wait to go back home," she said. "There's no place like the Philippines and there are no people like the Filipinos."

OFW loses job because baby can't finish bottle of milk

By Susan K.

DAGUPTE Ibfs of Cavite went to Hong Kong (HK) on Dec. 12, 2011, to be employed as a household service worker.

On Feb. 2, she was fired by her employer allegedly because the newborn baby she was eating for could not finish the milk she would prepare for her. Her principal agency in Hong Kong, Enjoy Service Centre, tried to mediate but the employers would not even talk to Claudette.

Unable to get another job, Fabi came home on Feb. 11 and asked for help from Barangay DOW of Hadyo Inquirer because she had to repay the money she borrowed for the placement fee.

Fabi would want a refund of almost PHP13,000 for fees and other expenses.

With the assistance of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the overseas Filipino worker (OFW) will file with the National Labor Relations Commission a case against her local agency, IBEE International Incorporated, formerly Sangle Bersales International Incorporated.

Fabi's HK employer appears guilty of abuse for terminating her employment over something she cannot control.

Undocumented worker

From April 1996, Nonoi Bulos Barandon worked as a general laborer in Doha, Qatar, to provide for family a better life. But in 2009, he was terminated by EBK Contracting Company.

The Qatar immigration office issued a hold-departure order against him because he supposedly owed a grocery bank the equivalent of P1.9 million. Since he could not come home, Barandon remained in Qatar as an undocumented worker. He work visa expired and his passport was confiscated.

Things got worse when Barandon suffered a heart attack on April 15 and had to be confined at the Hamad Cardiology.

His wife Josefina asked for assistance from Barangay DOW of Hadyo Inquirer. Among other things, she could understand how her husband incurred such a huge debt.

Under rules of the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration, Barandon could not receive any medical assistance or compensation benefits because he was an undocumented worker. And, until the case involving the debt was settled, he could not leave Qatar.

A lot of good news was received recently from the couple's friend in Qatar. Barandon's health had improved. But Josefina is appealing for assistance from friends and families in the can go to Qatar to be with her husband.

Barangay DOW will help her get a visa to travel to Qatar.

Barandon's case shows that there is no shortcut to becoming an overseas Filipino worker. Aspiring migrant workers should always remember: Make sure you have all the required documents or you will be deceived.

Seeking spousal support when a marriage ends

FINANCIAL support is an issue that arises when a marriage between a United States citizen and a petitioned spouse breaks down. This is particularly crucial when the petitioned spouse is unemployed and has no other means of support as in the case of Maria.

Maria entered the US on a fiancée visa. Petitioner Peter married her upon her arrival and executed an I-864 or Affidavit of Support (AOS), as part of Maria's application for a green card. After living together for one year, the couple separated and filed for divorce.

Instead of seeking spousal support through the state family court, Maria was advised by her lawyer to file in federal court where her chances of winning the case were supposedly better. Maria's lawyer said Peter owed her monetary under the Affidavit of Support.

The lawyer filed a civil suit for enforcement of contract. The district court ruled in Maria's favor, taking the AOS as a contract. Peter was ordered to pay spousal support, equivalent to 125 percent of the "poverty income level", as part of his obligation where he petitioned for Maria's green card.

Enforceable AOS

Those who are petitioning relatives for US immigrant visas are required by law to execute the AOS. The affidavits are meant to assure the American government that the petitioned relative will not apply for government assistance or welfare.

Although the document is called an affidavit, it is, in fact, an enforceable contract. By signing the affidavit, the petitioner agrees to support financially the sponsored alien, the equivalent of an annual income of not less than 125 percent of the federal poverty line, as long as the AOS is valid.

Aside from government agencies, a sponsored immigrant may also sue the US citizen sponsor if he fails to provide the support required by law.

This is what happened in the case of Group vs Group. An Indiana Northern District court ordered the US citizen petitioner to pay spousal support based on the AOS he signed.

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Tancinco

Limits of enforceability

The petitioner may no longer be liable when:

1. sponsored spouse becomes a naturalized US citizen;

2. sponsored spouse earns enough income to 40 quarters/ spanners under the social security law;

3. either the sponsor or the sponsored spouse dies; or

4. sponsored spouse abandons her lawful permanent resident status and leaves the US.

Aside from government agencies, a sponsored immigrant may also sue the US citizen sponsor if he fails to provide the support required by law.

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Limits of enforceability

The petitioner may no longer be liable when:

1. sponsored spouse becomes a naturalized US citizen;

2. sponsored spouse earns enough income to 40 qualifying quarters under the social security law;

3. either the sponsor or the sponsored spouse dies; or

4. sponsored spouse abandons her lawful permanent resident status and leaves the US.

Divorce or separation does not terminate the validity of the AOS.

The civil case for enforcement is filed with the appropriate district court. The case may be for breach of contract or specific performance of the contract.

Poverty guidelines

In executing affidavits of support, the US Citizenship and Immigration Service provides information on what level of income must be maintained by the sponsor to petition a relative. The level is based on poverty guidelines released annually by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Generally a sponsor seeking financial support based on the AOS is awarded an amount equivalent to what one household will be entitled to. This is about $11,170 per year although the court may modify the amount.

Few sponsored spouses file for enforcement of AOS after divorce. Many feel beholden to their petitioners, who they consider as their genuine sponsors, providing them the opportunity to move to the US.

There are certain arguments the petitioner/US citizen can use to be free of his obligations under the AOS. He can prove that the sponsored spouse committed fraud by using the marriage simply as a means to enter the US.

To avoid civil lawsuits, it is best if separating spouses can enter into amicable settlement agreements on the terms of the dissolution of marriage and spousal support. Or, to be proactive, to draw up documents, similar to prenuptial agreements, where the sponsored spouse waives any future claims against the petitioner.

(Tancinco may be reached at lmsfirm@yahoo.com or at 403-7177 or 721-1961.)

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Fifteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10163]

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAGAYAN IN THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CABUYAO

(e) Provide any training, drug test, drug rehabilitation, or other assistance as may be determined by the Board;

(f) Monitor and evaluate the performance of the Local Government Units (LGUs) in the implementation of the provisions of this Act; and

(g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

ARTICLE III
ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS

SEC. 11. *The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)*. – The DOTC shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto, perform the following functions:

(a) Supervise the regulation and control of the transportation and communication systems in the country;

(b) Issue, suspend, revoke, or cancel, after due notice and hearing, certificates of public convenience and necessity, permits, licenses, and authorizations for the operation of transportation and communication systems, and for the construction, maintenance, and use of facilities connected therewith, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto;

(c) Prescribe the routes of travel, zones or areas of operation, and schedules of trips of the operators of transportation systems, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto;

(d) Prescribe, fix, and collect charges, fees, and fines for the services rendered in connection with the regulation and supervision of transportation and communication systems, and for the use of the transportation and communication facilities, equipment, and properties of the Department, in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto;

(e) Prescribe the standards, rules and regulations governing the safety of transportation and communication systems, and the safety of persons and property affected by their operations;

(f) Prescribe the standards, rules and regulations governing the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and use of transportation and communication facilities, equipment, and properties;

(g) Prescribe the standards, rules and regulations governing the qualifications, training, examination, licensing, and competence of personnel employed in the operation and maintenance of transportation and communication systems;

(h) Prescribe the standards, rules and regulations governing the inspection and examination of transportation and communication systems, facilities, equipment, and properties, and the personnel employed therein;

(i) Prescribe the standards, rules and regulations governing the investigation of accidents involving transportation and communication systems, facilities, equipment, and properties, and the personnel employed therein;

(j) Prescribe the standards, rules and regulations governing the reporting of accidents involving transportation and communication systems, facilities, equipment, and properties, and the personnel employed therein;

(k) Prescribe the standards, rules and regulations governing the maintenance of records and the preparation of reports by persons and entities engaged in the operation of transportation and communication systems;

(l) Prescribe the standards, rules and regulations governing the preservation of the environment in connection with the operation of transportation and communication systems, and the construction, maintenance, and use of facilities connected therewith;

(m) Prescribe the standards, rules and regulations governing the conduct of persons and entities engaged in the operation of transportation and communication systems, and the construction, maintenance, and use of facilities connected therewith, and the penalties for violations thereof;

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Basa-Guidote: A story of betrayal in the family

From page A1

turned out that it was only the tip of the iceberg.

The first hint of trouble came in 1989 when the branches and Solidbank Corporation (SBC) issued a preliminary injunction against the majority stockholders where my father, Jose Ma. Basa III, called for a meeting to elect new officers because of his appointment over the management of the corporation when Arsenio started to file lawsuits against the corporation for various reasons.

Herme Boca casually delegated what responsibility and functions to his daughter, Cristina. There was no board resolution to support that action as the rest of the board was completely ignorant of it. Considering that we were basically trusting up for the decades of inequality at SGSI, she went on to run the corporation according to her whims. She effectively kept the majority stockholders in the dark, completely unaware of the corporation's operations and even more, of its financial status.

Stockholders kept in dark

Cristina never seemed to notice and constantly showed little concern about corporate laws. She never attended meetings that required her presence. She was the sole owner despite her mother, Asuncion, owning only 10 percent of the corporation, neither informing the majority stockholders nor accounting for whatever income is generated.

Despite the legal steps taken by the majority stockholders, the SBC saw nothing wrong with Cristina's actions. It made no attempt to resolve the legal conflicts in the corporation. It did not even see anything wrong with Cristina's failure to report the death of her father in 1993, as provided by law. The SEC did not care that it took two years, only in 1995, to report the death. The law of the jungle had taken over the corporation.

Cristina, along with her husband, Bernabe Corcuera, negotiated the sale of the SGSI's crown-jewel property, which was sold for P34.7 million to the City of Manila, with the deed, made out to Cristina Corona, in trust for SGSI. Like all the other transactions, the sale was not board-approved and the sale went at least questionable and at worst dubious. Stockholders were never notified of the negotiations, sale and the proceeds from the payment.

New revelations

It was not until the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona that the remaining stockholders learned of the P13-million cash advance from SGSI that Renato Corona requested in his application as attorney, liabilities and net worth (SALN). And with the revelations in the testimony last week of Sheriff Joseph Bunoz, Cristina pulled off the biggest super pet in the corporation!

Apparently, 4,839 shares representing 9.67 percent of SGSI were auctioned off and sold to the Corona' daughters, Carlo Corona-Cardiff. In, in 2000 for an unconscionable amount of P28,000, to satisfy the P500,000 in damages that the court awarded to Cristina when my father and several SGSI stockholders and employees.

How could Cristina, as the supposed administrator and caretaker of SGSI, have allowed the sale when she knew how much money the corporation's liability of an action is extinguished once he dies. There was actual estate taxes and we are wondering how the court could have endorsed the sale of executors against my father in 2003 and how the sheriff was filed in Cristina against my father because dead on Oct. 12, 2003, months after he died.

Nearly all of those who came across the SGSI story and testimonies at the impeachment trial just couldn't believe that Cristina could have pulled another fast one on the Philippines. And yet, it was done for all to see. As classic because on how to violate corporate laws, it stands out as one of the all-time wonders in Philippine business history. It's the people who believe they live in a country governed by laws, those would seem outrageous, and yet, as outrageous, unjust, insane and unfair as it is, that is exactly what is happening to us, and it is not just Cristina's doing.

Rape of SGSI

It is mind-boggling to think how Cristina was able to pull off all of these off by herself. Renato Corona has been saying, that evidentiary has long dry six (they are just testimony people). How then can Cristina on six testimony wife wield so much power? For most powerful that removed business corporations which, even if they tried, could not approximate what she was able to accomplish in over two decades.

The answer is simple: in the form of Renato Corona. He happened to be at the right place at the right time when Cristina got away with the rape of SGSI. With his power, full position and connections, he was the only one in the whole land pulled the strings so that Cristina would be able to accomplish what she did. There were some obvious manipulating and maneuvering of the cases. Considering the network of influence Renato Corona has cultivated over all these years, and with his personal position as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court enabling him more powerful than ever, it does not take much to arrive at the conclusion that we were in the fight of our lives.

Lawyers were confused as to how one case (probate), which Cristina (Sol) was being cited in one court, while another (determining the ownership of stockholders) was being heard in a different court. As if acting in cahoots, once to an interim hold is issued, lawyers raised legal issues that is often raised one would not make a decision unless the other first resolves the case before it. Of course, each one could also be acting independently prompted to have the other court confirm to case first. But convenience. Let's not even mention the SEC that is mandated to give a financial report on the status of the business but has been dragging its feet from day one.

Let me repeat: to me from of "justice delayed is justice denied." My father, after years of struggling and fighting for justice, died heartbroken, drained emotionally and psychologically. From what he shared with us during the last few conversations we had, he was still in search of justice. With his passing, we have settled on with the legal battles that wanted so much from him and from all of us as well. Left with this responsibility to continue his fight for justice, we have picked up the pieces as more dazed. Somehow, we believe that God believes in us, not only to trust us with these problems, but also for us to make a positive contribution by taking

From page A1

In The Know: Powers of Ombudsman: laws creating secrecy of foreign currency deposits

Section 8. Secrecy of foreign currency deposits. All foreign currency deposits authorized under Presidential Decree No. 1034, as amended by PD No. 1246, as well as those presently deposits authorized under PD No. 1034, are hereby declared as and considered of an absolutely confidential nature and, except upon the written permission of the depositor, in writing, or upon final conviction of violation of this Act, all foreign currency deposits (as hereinafter) inquired or looked into by any person, government official, bureau or office whether judicial or administrative or legislative, or any other entity whether public or private; ...

x x x

Art. Money Laundering Act

Section 10a. "Covered transaction" is a transaction in cash or other equivalent monetary instrument involving a total amount in excess of P500,000.00 within one banking day.

Section 10b-11. "Suspicious transactions" are transactions with covered institutions, regardless of the amount, where any of the following circumstances exist:

1. There is no underlying legal or trade obligation, purpose or economic justification.

2. The client is not properly identified.

3. The amount involved is not commensurate with the business or financial capacity of the client.

4. Taking into account all known circumstances, it may be presumed that the client's transaction is structured in order to avoid being the subject of reporting requirements under the Act.

5. Any circumstances relating to the transaction which is observed to deviate from the profile of the client and/or the client's past transactions with the covered institution.

6. The transactions in any way related to an unlawful activity or offense under this Act that is about to be, is being or has been committed; or

7. Any transaction that is similar or analogous to any of the foregoing.

Section 14(a). Breach of confidentiality. The punishment of imprisonment ranging from 3 to 8 years and a fine of not less than P500,000.00 but not more than P1,000,000.00 shall be imposed

In the case of a breach of confidentiality that is published or reported by media, the responsible reporter, editor, president, publisher, manager and editor in chief shall be liable under this Act.

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How the dollar accounts were 'opened': By stroke of genius or lawyerly cunning?

From page A1

The prosecution earlier tried to pry the information out of the Philippine Foreign Bank executives. The defense objected, and Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile upheld them. The Supreme Court confirmed this by issuing a temporary restraining order (TRO). And the Senate, voting 13 to 10, agreed with experts that, TRO. Unless the high court lifted the TRO, the only way to reopen the issue was from outside.

During the long Easter break, and society leaders filed several complaints before Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales, as it used Supreme Court Justice against Chief Justice Renato Corona for allegedly amassing ill-gotten wealth and for not declaring them on his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN). The complaints did not mention any dollar account.

The Ombudsman, acting under constitutional antigraft powers, ordered the complainees to the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), whose charter bestows upon it "quasi-judicial functionality" Banks are required to report to the AMLC all "covered transactions" (above P500,000 in one day) or "suspicious transactions" (bearing the earmarks of illegality), but they are "prohibited from disclosing (the) directly or indirectly, in any manner or by any means, to any person." One can parse the language here, and limit the confidentiality to the banks and not to the AMLC itself.

Cat is out of the bag

The AMLC then sent the Ombudsman its 17-page report showing $12 million dollars held in 82 bank accounts allegedly owned by the Chief Justice. The Ombudsman then turned to another antigraft constitutional body, the Commission on Audit, to make sense of the highly technical AMLC report. Finally, the Ombudsman asked the Chief Justice to explain the discrepancies.

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"asset" for purposes of the SALN, which Tighe places at $687,433.

Moreover, he explains that if Corona made direct cross-country transfers of dollars, they would have shopped around for the best rates among competing banks. Thus the 82 bank accounts overtime count. Finally, Tighe suggests that the dollar figures transfer to some P55-million, roughly equivalent to the amount paid by the government of the City of Manila to Basa Guidote Enterprises Inc., the corporation of the family of Corona's wife.

Patchwork of legal cover

The defense called for the Ombudsman to verify because they were confident that there was no proper legal way to prove the dollar accounts because these were confidential. They had let expire all the affidavit, evidentiary assistance that would have been the SALN, which would in turn produce a summary of the accounts and release it, it was not exactly feather, to the Ombudsman, who then divulged them to the Senate. But in case, shady documents were given to the Senate, they were to the Senate, under the glare of TV cameras for good measure.

The defense can similarly justify the dollar accounts through plausible explanations that legally explains away the problem but admittedly, the explanation is difficult to why even if Tighe's numbers are correct, Corona left the court of his SALN, and been apprehended official untainted cash wealth.

What the defense effectively lost the past week was the option to keep the issue of the dollar accounts confidentiality. That is no longer a realistic option. Here, we can consider Senator Franklin Drilon's move as merely indicative of Corona's dollar wealth, but Corona is now on the defensive as the only way out is to testify on the dollar accounts himself. That was the decisive twist of all. They can't have the evidence out of Corona, so they made him want to produce it himself.

Quest continues for 'grandmama's' identity; 2009 DNA tests not conclusive

From page A1

many other reports and narratives that believe the 2009/2004 test results are not conclusive.

In fact, the Senate report, in summarizing the authenticity of the remains discovered in 1976 and 2007 is hardly clear.

Provenance of bones

Questions concerning the provenance of the bones, claimed to be the remains of the Imperial family discovered in 1976, but reopened and exhumed only in 1991), have been raised. Details regarding the chain of custody of the remains in question were never provided. Hence, important reports involved deem the DNA analysis to be inconclusive.

Both the House of Romanov (the Imperial House of Russia) and the powerful Russian Orthodox Church still refuse to recognize the remains as those of the Romanovs.

During the 1998 funeral in St. Petersburg, the late Archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church, Alexy II (the equivalent of the Archbishop of Manila), who officiated the funeral, ordered the officiating priest to simply refer to the bones being buried as "Christian victims of the revolution whose names are unknown."

Rev. Gennady Belkovsky, S.J., a prominent clergyman within the Russian Orthodox Church in St. Petersburg, says, "As for the bones of Maria and Alexei discovered in 2007, there are reasonable doubts that they belong to different people. The church would be happy with only 100 percent certainty, nothing less."

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Iglesia lobby doubted

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ahead, a member of the President's Liberal Party, said in a text message to the Inquirer.

"We expect CJ Renato Corona to be using all available political levers, even selling spare political clothes, to try to influence the situation," Abad said.

Abad said he and other senators had information of INC leaders trying to influence senators into pushing for Corona's acquittal, Abad said, "because it is common knowledge that the INC in the past has wielded political clout. In the sense of politics, that development will not be surprising."

He would say, "that if it was only until the [Philippine Daily Inquirer] came out with the report that we came to know, particularly of the alleged attempts by certain INC personalities to influence the senators. And even if that were true we also are not sure if these senators are lobbied unanimously by the INC hierarchy."

Just a trick

Presidential adviser on political affairs Ronald Llamas said the lobbying was just a trick to pressure the senators into acquitting Corona.

But Llamas said the senators would not allow themselves to be pressured. And the government does not believe the INC would "allow itself to be used for political purposes," Llamas said in a text message.

A legislative source told the Inquirer that INC officials Eduardo Ereneta and Rondy Lanzaderas approached senators during the Lenten break at Congress.

Manny Carreon and Victor Ocampo have also been mentioned as coordinating the lobby when the impeachment trial resumed in early May. Manny Carreon was earlier reportedly identified as the brother of Corona's lead defense counsel, Jesualdo Carreon, who is an Iglesia member.

Not bothered

Abad said he was not bothered by the supposed Iglesia lobby. He said he was confident that the senators would see the case. Archbishop Ambrosio Agtarap of the Chief Justice said visits to control him.

"Remember, the overwhelming message in the 2010 elections that catapulted the Aquino administration to power was stop corruption and hold those who committed graft and corruption with impunity accountable for the people," Abad said.

"The evidence so far gathered by the prosecution under Article 2 are enough, in my view, to convict Corona," Abad said. "But the startling revelations of Ombudsman [Candelaria] Conchita Morales on Corona's dollar transactions based on Land-Bank's [Landbank] Go Negosyo 4 documents have leaked Corona's fate," he added.

Article 2 of the House's impeachment complaint against Corona involves his failure to disclose his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth.

Morales, announced by the impeachment court as a favorable witness on the request of the defense, last week presented SALN documents detailing investments in multimillion-dollar deposits in 82 bank accounts allegedly owned by Corona.

"With the tendentious attitude being displayed by our people against corruption and the corrupt, the evidence must be before the Senate. I don't see how the senators can ignore these," Abad said.

Clarify issues

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said Malacañang expected the senators to shed light on the reported Iglesia lobbying.

In an interview over state-run radio station dzRB, Valte said senators usually use breaks during the impeachment trial to clarify certain issues.

"Let's see what the trial reactions on Tuesday if the senators will take the time to answer the particular issue," Valte.

Some of the senators would not wait until then to speak. They began talking yesterday saying no lobbying by any group would sway them to vote for or against Corona.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel III, Alexander Lacson, Loren Legarda, Franklin Drilon, Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto said they had not been approached by Iglesia ni Cristo. Some of them doubted the INC would "resort to love."

"Any lobbying is useless," Pimentel told the reporter by phone. "I'm very vocal and publicly stated that I will decide on evidence, crying, can't change evidence. They have to refute evidence by better evidence."

Lacson agreed: "Even if true, I trust that a great majority of senator-judges will be guided by what the prosecution and the defense panels have presented and will present, and how we will appreciate those pieces of evidence."

More than the lobbying by groups, Corona's footsoldiers on assets that he did not disclose in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth would help his cause, Drilon said.

UNA targeted

The Iglesia lobby reportedly targeted members of the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) of Vice President Jejomar Binay and former President Joseph Estrada.

The highest-ranking source claimed that the INC's Ereneta and Lanzaderas met with Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile in Cagayan, and Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada in Manila. Enrile declined to be interviewed, because Estrada could not be found nor been approached.

Santo, the Senate majority leader said it wasn't surprising for any group from Iglesia ni Cristo to approach senators, as the impeachment trial is political.

"Whether true or not, whether Malacañang is also talking to prosecutors or not, it's all part of the political character of the impeachment," Santo said by phone. "Not only the opposing groups or parties from lobbying," he said.

"For all we know, their name INC is only being used," Santo added.

Romano said the reports of lobbying were "unfair" to both the INC and the senators, and distract from the trial.

"I think it's a disservice to the Ereneta and the senator-judges," Romano said by phone. "We must presume good faith in everyone. There were instructions like this before about the attempts by Malacañang to influence judges by offering development projects."

Ignore it

Romano said the reports should be ignored because they "destroy constitutional and democratic institutions" and the public has the constitutional search for truth and justice."

All the senators sought for comment by the Inquirer said they have not been approached by the INC.

"I have not been approached," Lacson said in a text message. "I don't think the INC leadership will disappoint and like the public in an impeachment trial where moral forces in such an isolated position in government is on trial."

Santo added: "Nothing will work on INC. still it's a free land. So ego but only the respective leadership left.

And neither were Honasan, Drilon, Pangilinan, Recto and Legarda approached about Corona's case.

"I have not been approached by the INC or the Palace to influence my votes to the trial," Honasan said. "I don't think the senator-judges should give this too much attention. We're looking forward to the appearance of the Chief Justice."

Corona will testify in his own defense on Tuesday.

Pangilinan said this could be "all speculation" and declined further comment.

Recto said he was "surprised" by the reports. Drilon said: "I can state for a fact I was not approached."

Pangilinan, Recto and Drilon are members the Liberal Party.

Legarda said senators would rather "marvel the evidence and wait for Corona's testimony on Tuesday.

House Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada III, spokesperson of the prosecution panel, also doubted the INC would try to influence the verdict in Corona's trial.

"I don't think the INC will do that," Tañada said by phone. "It will be unfair to the senator-judges. The senator-judges would want to base their decision on the evidence presented," he said.

Tañada said he thought the INC was just an "observer like everyone else." He said he believed the INC would look at the evidence presented and would base its stance on these.

With reports from TJ Burgonio and Gaila B. Jiao-Sevilla

Did CJ report it in his SALN?

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG on Saturday mocked Chief Justice Renato Corona's lawyers' claim that they have "cracked the code" in Cordoba, near Conchita Carpio Morales' testimony on the impeached magistrate's alleged $12-million in $1-dollar accounts.

"They didn't have to crack the code. All they needed to do was ask their client if he had dollar deposits," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said over government radio station dzRB.

Defense lawyers on Friday that they were confident Corona would be acquitted after the trial. They said that out of the 82 accounts Morales testified on, only three or less actually exist and they don't necessarily belong to the Chief Justice.

"It doesn't matter whether there's three, whether there's less whether there's 82. What matters is what's in there. How much is the amount that is in those [bank accounts]," Valte said.

"These are simple questions that must be answered. First, is it true that there are dollar deposits? Second, if it's true, how much do they contain? Third, if there are indeed deposits, were these declared in his SALN [statement of assets, liabilities and net worth]?" she added.

Senator Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III, a spokesperson for the prosecution panel, also said the number of accounts and how much was in there didn't matter. What matters is whether Corona declared those accounts or not.

For Sen. Franklin Drilon, that is the case. "Whether or not there are eight or 82 accounts, or $12 million or $1.2 million, is immaterial to me," Drilon said by phone. "What is material to me is whether these amounts were reported in the SALN."

Corona is scheduled to testify on Tuesday. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Gaila B. Jiao-Sevilla*

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

4 teens killed in car crash

By Nathaniel R. Meliton

AN ACCIDENT inside an exclusive subdivision in Muntinlupa City yesterday morning claimed the lives of four teenagers.

Policemen identified the victims as Thomas Eric Nguyen, 16; Bruce Xavier, 16; Timothy Syytip, 18; and his brother Joshua, 18, all residents of Ayala Alabang Village.

Based on an initial investigation conducted by SPO1 Henry Lagrosa of the Muntinlupa police, the four were in a Hyundai Elantra (TOQ 397) when the car crash took place at around 4 a.m. yesterday.

"They were traversing Acacia Avenue inside the subdivision, heading northward, when they suddenly hit an [electrical] post at the corner of Acacia and Gojo Streets," the policeman told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

He added that the vehicle was running "quite fast" when it hit the post based on a check of the footage taken by security cameras posted in the area.

After hitting the electrical post, the vehicle rammed the concrete fence of a nearby house.

"The impact was so strong that the car spun a total of five times and the victims were thrown out of the vehicle. We found them [lying on] the road," he said.

The crash site damaged the concrete fence and a village road sign.

The four victims were immediately taken to Asian Hospital for treatment where three of them were pronounced dead on arrival. The fourth died due to severe head and body injuries several hours later.

The police official said that they were still trying to determine who was driving the car at the time of the accident.

Also under investigation was the cause of the crash as well as if any of the victims were drunk.

"There was no witness when the [accident] happened so we will be looking at the car, the medical report of the victims and other pieces of evidence to establish what caused the accident," he added.

Third escapee yields; hunt on for 7 others

By Kristine Felisse Mangosay

THE HUNDER of escaped prisoners being sought by the Mandaluyong City police went down to seven after another one gave himself up upon the presidng of his mother yesterday morning.

Gabriel Gonzales, 36, who is facing theft charges, surrendered to his neighbor, PO1 Chad de Leon who is assigned to the Valenzuela police, instead of the Mandaluyong lawmen who had been keeping watch over his mother's house on Quo Grande Road in Barangay Ugong, Valenzuela City.

"He was scared of the [Mandaluyong police] so instead, he gave himself up to one of our men who lived just beside his parents' house. He trusted him," PO2 Michael Deina said, referring to Gonzales.

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PAWS WITH A MISSION Arnold Guerrero Jr. and A. G. Saño draw the outline of marine creatures on the Manila Bay wall of Mary Ayala Parks and Wildlife Center in preparation for a "mass painting" on May 31. WWW.INQUIRER.NET

Painter-activist seeks volunteers for 'Wall of Nature'

By Nale Cuevarras

RIZAL WALL pass has "quota" of 25,000 dolphins.

On May 31, however, A. G. Saño hopes others will join him in painting more of these amazing creatures and other marine wonders to make a colorful statement in celebration of Mother Nature.

Saño, who left a globe-trotting job on a Disney cruise ship in 2008 after seeing disturbing news footage of some of the practices in Japan's dolphin-hunting industry, is the visual artist tapped to lead a mural painting activity marking the Month of the Ocean.

Dozens of volunteers, including government employees, environmental advocates, fellow artists, students or anyone who may have read about the campaign on Facebook—are expected to join in by picking up the brush on Friday, starting at 8 a.m.

Their collective masterpiece will adorn the one-kilometer long wall surrounding Mary Ayalas Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City. The Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (DENR) initiative inspired the project in adding it to the "Wall of Nature."

Since May 6, Saño has been preparing the wall with sketches depicting different species of fish, turtles, manta rays, sharks, dolphins, corals, etc. The painting will include Endeavor of mythical dweller fed by "Kaibang," the giant crocodile caught in Agusan del Sur last year.

Lolong's image will have a prominent spot near the park's Quezon Avenue gate, Saño told the Inquirer in an interview last week. "We're our flagship species for this project."

Come Friday, the volunteer painters will apply the colors based on a scheme Saño had prepared, "just like in a coloring book," he said.

PAWB chose the Batangas-based 36-year-old Saño for the mural project not only in recognition of his talent but also for his decade-long involvement in green campaigns.

From a family of artists

Coming from a family of artists, Amado Guerrero Sr. 67, Saño started painting at age 18 and received an apprenticeship under master Fernando Amorsolo. He earned a degree in landscape architecture at the University of the Philippines in Diliman although the call of the wild had too big a temptation in several "immersion" tours in the countryside as a volunteer for environmental groups.

By 2008, he had segued to wildlife photography and was taking clients on dolphin-watching tours off Subic port. Incidentally, he was somewhere in The Caribbean, painting the walls and railings of churches and holding art classes for children.

A job interview in a gourmet and scenery choreographer for On Deck, Florida office of Disney Cruise Line briefly veered him toward a regular, if not a more lucrative, career. But an epiphany at sea in the Bahamas steered him back to his earlier course.

"I was on the ship Disney Wonder watching Cliff Robertson's narration of the slaughter of dolphins in Japan, and how two Hollywood celebrities once cried to get in between the dolphins and the fishermen.

"I was affronted by what I saw, especially after someone (who knew my past volunteer work) told me that I could have been that person coming in between the hunters and their prey," he said.

That episode was enough to inspire Saño to join the Philippines in March 2010. He received passion was further ignited when his girlfriend made him watch a DVD copy of the 2009 documentary "The Cove."

"It turned out that the clips I saw were not OMG scary from The (then upcoming) documentary," Saño said. "That's when I also learned that in Japan, particularly in (the town of) Taji, they supposedly have this quota to kill 23,000 dolphins each year."

Man with a mission

Saño decided to use his art to draw attention to the killings. It minutes was then born: To paint a total of 23,000 dolphins, matching the number of casualties in the annual slaughter.

He painted "Dolphin No. 1" on March 31, 2010, just a day after watching "The Cove," during a seven-trip to Camiguin Norte, Babuyan Islands, on the walls of St. Vincent Ferrer church.

Over the next nine months, with the help of an online campaign and some media exposure, he received one invitation after another to paint his favorite subject on the walls of private homes, buildings and schools in Metro Manila and several provinces from Subic to Tawi-Tawi, and even in Singapore and Indonesia.

Friends and strangers alike asked for to do their walls. For the paint, I sometimes went to

Man with a mission

nearby construction sites and asked if they have leftovers that they could give me."

In between sessions, he let the mural have an assembly. He painted pictures, for example, against a dolphin show held at Sanrio Coliseum in December 2010, a campaign that later led to a successful effort to get the show's organizers to stop.

Quite fittingly, it was also around that time that he finally rendered his 23,000th dolphin, on one of the floats during the carnival of Lanzon festival.

For the May 31 event, Saño said he would be joined by members of Save Philippine Seas, a group which recently helped expose the smuggling of black corals and other endangered marine animals out of the country, and the Subic-based Coastwatchers who would also build a cement.

Volunteers are still welcome. To register, they may call PAWB's Coastal and Marine Management Office at 9228944 and look for Sharon Ingua.

METROBRIEFS

School cleanup set

WITH the opening of the school year less than a month away, Lito Pillas-Bilgera Virgel Aguilar has ordered all school officials to start cleaning up rooms and other school facilities which have remained unused during the summer break, in a statement.

Aguilar emphasized the importance of observing cleanliness and other school facilities and equipment to prevent spreading diseases such as dengue fever and the measles which is common there. "Every week and a day of usual schools must be kept up and clean so as not to [get] the pupils [at risk of] contracting the deadly disease. We cannot be complacent. We must take all the necessary preventive measures to ensure a safe and clean environment," Aguilar said. He ordered all school administrators in both public and private schools to start cleaning next week in line with the yearly Brigada Eskwela program of the Department of Education. Mahmor V. Mohican

Roxas Blvd. closed

A PORTION of Roxas Boulevard will once again be closed to traffic today to make way for the Philippine Road Racing Grand Prix. Starting at 4:30 a.m., the southbound lane of the thoroughfare from T.M. Kalaw Street in P. Ocampo Sr. Street will be closed to traffic. The Manila Traffic Enforcement Unit is an advisory suggested that motorists coming from the northern part of Manila can opt to C-3, Quirino, right until R. Papa, left on Quirino Avenue and right on Roberto to get to their destination. Vehicles coming from northern Manila are also advised to simply take Taft Avenue instead of Roxas Boulevard. Jaymee T. Gamil

CCTVs eyed in Intramuros makeover

By Jaymee T. Gamil

PRIME area and drive to one of the country's top tourist destination—this is the makeover the Intramuros Administration (IA) is aiming for.

At a recent press conference launching Intramuros Week, IA Administrator Jose Capistrano Jr. announced that the rehabilitation of the Aguinaldo building, the original seat of the Legislative Assembly in 1907, has finally been completed.

The building, which now houses the Office of the Secretary of Treasury, has retained its famed marble halls, he said.

Another project in the works is the installation of closed-circuit television cameras around the 64-hectare walled district, expected to be completed by July.

By October, the 16 lanes in Manila Bay development of the Intramuros Park at the portion of the 4.3-km Intramuros wall beside Pasig River Reconstruction of the Muralla area wall is ongoing with recesses having eyed for construction into cubes, restaurants and souvenir shops.

Capistrano said they were also in talks with the Department of Public Works and Highways for the construction of bridge over Pasig River which would directly connect Intramuros to Binondo.

He added that there were plans to extend Fort Santiago's operating hours well into the night for cultural shows at the Rajah Sulayman theater. Its recondition of recent banquets especially in the heated halls to make the walled district, and the absence of several streets to reduce car use, give way to increased foot traffic.

The Intramuros master development plan for 2012, which has been submitted to it's modified opening the Department of Tourism, also includes a P180-million reconstruction of the St. Ignatius Church ruins to build the multicultural collection of Intramuros; the conversion of the Bureau Municipal de Manila ruins into a boutique hotel; the redevelopment of the American Barracks in Fort Santiago into five-dining entertainment, and the building of offices for the national archive and a maritime museum.

The projects will be done through public private partnerships, Capistrano said.

Solar panels power lights in Mandaluyong tunnel

By Nitha Calleja

WITH the installation of solar panels on top of the Boni tunnel, the city government of Mandaluyong expects to save up to P250,000 every year in electrical costs.

Last week, the 200-meter long tunnel became the first to use solar power as a source of lighting.

"This will mean so much savings for us. Before, there had already been times when we also should pay for the electricity used in the tunnel. The responsibility was passed on to us. Now our expenses will be P100,000 less," Mayor Benhur Abalos said during the turnover ceremony of the new lighting system using light

running density (LED) last week.

The new lighting system is one of the Aquino government's public-private partnership projects under the Department of Energy (DOE).

According to DOE, the Boni tunnel will be illuminated at daytime using the solar panel. At night time, the power source will switch to the grid.

The LED technology used in the tunnel is considered as the most economical lighting color. Unlikely across the country as Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said they intend to install solar-powered LEDs in other tunnels.

"Manila tunnel could be next," Almendras added.

FISH BE WITH YOU
Children try their luck at winning a goldfish or two by playing a bet. For P1, they are given a piece of paper which is dipped into water to reveal a code written in invisible ink. Tersia, the code on the paper should match any of those assigned to the fish.

Third escapee yields . . .

From page A12

According to Chino, Dr. Leonguson being inherited of the escapee's desire to give himself up, called his partner SPO1 Rudel Bongcan. They then took Gonzales to the Valenzuela City police headquarters around 2:30 a.m.

He was turned over to the custody of the Mandaluyong police before 5 p.m. yesterday.

Senior Supt. Armando Balilo, Mandaluyong chief of police, said that they were following up leads on the whereabouts of the seven prisoners who remain at large following the jailbreak.

He refused to go into details still being sought by his men were Reynaldo Eligio, Joel Ca-

pule, Rolando Palmeros, Samuel Abarca, Mark Lewis Rodil, Mark Agapa and Melgar Quintero.

Earlier, Valentino Llanan and Henry Andrada gave themselves up to authorities.

The jailbreak took place at the Mandaluyong police headquarters shortly before 6 a.m. on Tuesday as 20 prisoners sawed off some of the bars to their cell using a saw that had been smuggled into the prison by a visitor.

It led to the relief of Chief Insp. Maximino Cadacio who headed the city police criminal investigation unit and SPO1 Julius Cesar Pineta, PO3 Julius Pareja and PO2 Dante Alonzo who were on duty at the time of the jailbreak.

The WORLD

Editor Lamberto B. Glocoo

China's military getting stronger, Pentagon says

WASHINGTON—China is pressing a long-range modernization of its military, part of a strategy aimed at maximizing its leverage over Taiwan, extending its influence farther abroad, but avoiding conflict around its borders or with the United States, the Pentagon said on Friday in an annual report to Congress.

Chinese leaders, the report asserted, view this as a time to "focus on internal development while avoiding direct confrontation," although they expect tensions, competition and territorial flareups from time to time, and they do not expect the status quo, however unsatisfactory they find it, to last indefinitely.

The United States, decades ahead technologically, spends much more, and is proving its strategy toward Asia and the Pacific, "broke to build a military-to-military relationship with China that is healthy, stable, enduring, and constructive," the annual report said.

Two months ago, Beijing announced an 11.2-percent increase in its annual military budget to roughly $106 billion. While economic comparisons and analysis have always been difficult, there is no doubt that the past few decades have seen steady expansion in China's military spending, and the Pentagon's estimate is that China is investing more than it says but still only about a fourth of what the United States spends each year on the military.

For its money, China is getting more weapons, and better ones.

It is now in "transforming into a force capable of offshore offensive and defensive operations," the report said, with prototypes of a stealth fighter now starting last year. Other areas of investments include defenses against ballistic missiles, early warning and air-defense missiles, and their land and naval equivalents.

But the developments cited in the report exhibit only very modest. For example, China's first aircraft carrier, purchased from Ukraine in 1998, set out on its maiden-to-cruise last summer, but China still has no planes equipped to land on its deck, and its naval pilots are still training ashore.

"We expect it'll take several additional years for its air group to achieve a minimal operational capability aboard the aircraft carrier," David Helvey, a Pentagon official handling regional issues, said at a briefing on the report.

In many ways, the modernization shows a Chinese military that has watched what the United States has done in the past generation or two, and is exploring the same avenues of growth. From the wholesale using of its army to the new ascendancy of information technologies to warfare, there are parallels.

To be sure, there are profound differences, as the People's Liberation Army, or PLA, plays a distinct role in Chinese society, governmental and economic affairs.

The two militaries also are now operating more frequently in overlapping territories, and the 2010 report traced the same themes as last year's, but a bit more succinctly.

In the past year, it noted, the PLA "deployed assets to support noncombatant evacuation operations from Libya, extended its presence in the Gulf of Aden for a third year, and for the first time, could take on leadership roles in United Nations peace operations, and conducted medical exchanges and a service mission to Latin America and the Caribbean using the PLA navy's hospital ship."

There are examples of what the Chinese call "new historic missions" for the PLA, and while they are generally more diversified, as in other nations, they demonstrate a new assertiveness that the Pentagon, and some US allies, look upon warily.

"China's actions in 2010 with respect to ongoing land and maritime territorial disputes with neighbors," the report said, "reflected a mix of concessions with the strategic, reversed efforts to reassure some neighbors, and continued willingness (particularly through the use of paramilitary maritime law enforcement assets) to assert Chinese claims."

This has been especially notable in the South China Sea, where tensions with the Philippines continue. AFP/DJB

WORLDBRIEFS

Mexico detains 3 generals tied to drug cartel

MEXICO CITY—The Mexican government detained three high-ranking army generals this week, including a former second in command at the Defense Ministry, suggesting the depths the drug cartels have gone to trying to infiltrate one of the country's forces, President Felipe Calderón has asserted since coming to power. The arrests of a group of generals were without precedent in recent memory, and Mexican news reports suggested that the corruption investigation was continuing and could hit other important figures in the drug war. The three generals, Silvestre Villegas said, played a role in facilitating drug trafficking. The accusations against the third general, who was arrested on Thursday night, include that he ignored a tip by US drug agents about an imminent airplane delivery of a drug cartel's cocaine in December 2007. AP/TKD

Europe thinks the unthinkable on Greece

BRUSSELS/LONDON—European officials are working on contingency plans to save Greece from a default or even the euro zone, the EU's trade commissioner said on Friday, as European shares tumbled and Germany warned of continuing financial turmoil. German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, one of Greece's harsher critics, said market unrest fueled by the euro zone debt crisis could last another year or two. "Regarding the crisis of confidence in the euro ... in 12 to 24 months we will see a softening of the financial markets," he said. Germany earmarks no increasing provisions or billions when Greece's government spokesperson said that Chancellor Angela Merkel asked the idea of Greece holding a referendum on its austerity measures package—something Berlin promptly denied. European shares fell their lowest level since December, depressed by the prospect of a Greek euro exit spreading a wave of contagion in the currency bloc, which could engulf much larger economies such as Spain's. Reuters

Hollande tells Obama troop pullout will proceed

WASHINGTON—France's Hollande vowed his first visit with President Barack Obama as France's president on Friday to redeem his pledge to withdraw combat forces from Afghanistan by the end of the year, two years earlier than originally planned. For one that Nicolas Sarkozy appeared keen to present as the start of a new relationship that maintains the countries' friendly ties, Hollande nonetheless said he wanted during his campaign promises to bring French troops home. US officials, the Twin said, appeared resigned to losing the troops, and they said their hope was that France would make up for the loss of troops by helping out the US-led Nato mission in other ways. "I recalled to President Obama that I had made a promise to withdraw our combat troops from Afghanistan at the end of 2012," Hollande said, appearing next to Obama before reporters in the Oval Office after their meeting. "I also stipulated that there would still be support in another form." AP/TKD

US firms eye Burma as sanctions suspended

WASHINGTON/HONG KONG—The suspension of US sanctions banning investment in Burma (Myanmar) in response to political reforms in the poor Southeast Asian state opens the door to US companies queuing to invest for business in one of the last frontier markets. Industrial heavyweights including General Electric Co. and Caterpillar Inc. are seeking entry from Asia and Europe that have already moved into a market of up to 60 million people in the former British colony. Analysts and experts have said there will be opportunities for foreign companies across the industrial landscape—from energy, mining and construction to agriculture, finance and tourism. GE, the biggest US conglomerate, said on Friday it was working with the Burma government on possible infrastructure projects and opportunities in the healthcare and energy sectors. Reuters

In US, workers over 65 at a record high

THE RETIREMENT dream seems further away for a lot of baby boomers, and this appears to be especially true for working seniors over 65 years old. But that may have worsened the employment prospects for younger workers. Labor Department figures indicate that the percentage of workers over the traditional retirement age of 65 is at a record high. But, the figures show, job totals fell sharply for men under 55 during the recession and have only started to recover, while the proportion of women ages 25 to 54 with jobs also slid and is close to the lowest level of the last two decades. "The fact of the matter is that this aging but not-yet-aged segment of the baby boomer generation is difficult to retire," said David E. Rosenberg, the chief economist of Gluskin Sheff. AP/TKD

After flat debut, Facebook must prove itself

By Peter Eavis

FACEBOOK users have some proving to do.

On the first day of trading as a public company, Facebook shares did not deliver the pop that many investors have come to expect from Internet companies. The lackluster first day performance may be an early sign that the market is not fully comfortable valuing Facebook at $100 billion, a number that assumes the company is capable of producing enormous profits.

At its current market value, investors are not just friending Facebook—they expect it to be their best friend for a very long time. Yet stock market history shows this active acquaintance when a highly valued company disappoints.

"At $100 billion, everything has to go according to plan," said Amanda Hindlian, a professor of finance at the New York University Stern School of Business. He thinks the company could be worth about a third less.

Facebook is trading at 108 times its earnings in the 12 months through March, compared with 14 times for the overall market and 18 times for Google, Facebook's main competitor for online advertising revenue. On sales, Facebook's stock price also looks rich, even alongside similar companies. LinkedIn, a social network, trades at 17 times sales. Facebook far exceeds that at 26 times.

"I won't justify it," said Sergy Edelstein, an assistant professor at the Bellagio School of Management at Northwestern University. "Facebook is a great business, but it's worth around $25 billion."

There is one measure upon which Facebook does not look the most expensive—how much value the market places on each of its users. The company had 600 million worldwide users and 16 as in March, according to comScore, a data firm. The market values each of those at $150, compared with $172 at Google.

But there is a very good reason Google is higher. It manages to earn $23 in revenue for each user, even those more than Facebook.

Young companies often start out trailing with almost looking valuations, but then fall. If those as they produce the earnings that investors expect. Google went public in 2004 at a similar valuation to earnings. Since then, its shares have gone up nearly seven times.

But Facebook's business model is not as clear as Google's, Damodaran says. He says he thinks it would be a mistake to assume that just because it has hundreds of millions of users, it can make strongly increasing profits for the foreseeable future.

"It's like a Chinese company that says it's worth a lot because there are a billion people in China," Damodaran said. AP/TKD

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Absolute Distilled Water's absolutely Inspiring Mom for others Awards

Absolute Moms (l-r) Patricia Bermudez-Hizon, Cecile Bolaos, Rosa de los Angeles, Pia Magalona, Irma Primo Viaden

Absolute Moms (l-r) Patricia Bermudez-Hizon, Cecile Bolaos, Rosa de los Angeles, Pia Magalona, Irma Primo Viaden

Absolute Moms with ABS's Marketing Manager for non-alcohol Ms. Mae Clemente and ABS's Vice President for Marketing Ms. Herbert Sia

Is it a treat for Mother's Day this month. Absolute Pure Distilled Drinking Water will recognize 5 women who are inspiring mothers and heroes to their chosen fields but at the same time, are dedicating herself to their families as well as to give back and make a difference by supporting a cause or charity.

The award will be held Wednesday, May 5 at the Museum Cafe in Rockwell 4. Five specially chosen mothers will receive the "Absolutely Inspiring Mom for Others" Award to be handed by Absolute Mom-in-chief, Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo, who, in celebration of her 20th year in the industry, started her very own brand, a Heart Foundation that helps secure the future of children in the Asia community of Orion, Bataan.

In honor of the 5 awardee moms, Absolute Distilled Drinking Water will donate P50,000 to each awardee's charity of choice.

The 5 Absolute Mom Awardees are spokesmodel and host Patricia Bermudez-Hizon who chose the House of Refuge Compassion and Help Homeboy Caring Together Dreams Haven and her family saved the orphanage and opened their home to the children until they found a new place to stay. Among her many causes, Patricia continues to be active with the Philippine Children's Medical Foundation, which she founded over 15 years ago.

The wife of the late Master Rapper Francis Magalona, Pia Magalona was chosen for her work as Chairperson of the Francis Magalona Foundation, helping to fundraise for the lives of public high school students in order to instill Filipino pride.

Fashion visionary Rambiss and volunteer Tessa Prieto, who founded the Rambiss Memorial Center for charity work with the Assumption High School Batch 81 Foundation which is the endless entrepreneurial mother.

Lourdes Geronimo-Cruz, Youth for a United World of the Peninsula, Pilipinas de los Angeles was singled out for her exemplary service in helping the less privileged. The Peninsula is an international movement with roots in Northern Italy and communities around the world.

Founder of Mga Ginang and TOMOO, Jeannine Cathy Rabaya was chosen for transforming her grief into a lifetime mission. Mga Mga's Corner, a foundation that has established play areas in over 10 public hospitals in the country. Cathy's ultimate charity is Project Smile Kids, a non-profit organization that helps families of children battling cleft defect.

Inspirational Speaker Ms. Marisol Gomez of the Love Institute will give a talk on Languages of Love.

This event is fabulous Pure Distilled Drinking Water's way of saying a heartfelt thank you to all the mothers out there who continue to be inspiring in their pursuance of family and others," said Brand Manager Angelie "Gee" Ong.

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SMART
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GOVERNORS' CUP OPENING

Souped-up Petron battles Powerade

WASHINGTON

LASSITER

MCCANTS

ANTIPOLO—Rashad McCants, who is potentially the finest import in the lot, struts his stuff for Powerade today as the Tigers clash with Petron Blaze and what could be the most fearsome local starter in the PBA Governors' Cup.

Tip-off is at 4:30 p.m. at the Ynares Center here with the attention expected to be divided on the former University of North Carolina star McCants and the Boosters' local lineup headed up by the return of Jay Washington and the arrival of Marcio Lassiter.

McCants, who also saw action for several years in the NBA, is the most recognizable import in the field, having been picked 14th overall by the Minnesota Timberwolves in the 2005 Draft.

Rain or Shine and Barako take the lid off the tournament in a 4:15 p.m. contest. The Elasto Painters parade Jaworn Cawley and the Asys welcome the returning Jimwi Ponferrada.

Luigi Trillo calls the shots in his first PBA game after being appointed the interim head coach of the Aces following the resignation of Jimi Bansal next the end of the Commissioner's Cup.

Cawley is reportedly just filling in for Arizona Reid, who could be available in the next few days after fulfilling a commitment to the Iranian pro league.

McCants teams up with Gary David and JJ Castro in forming the Tigers' Big Three, which Lassiter eased in for a pair of before the deal that sent him to the Boosters was finally approved.

Lassiter adds more muscle to the already talent-laden Petron side, as he joins the likes of fellow import rookie Chris Lutz and veteran superstar Arwind Santos, Danny Ildefonso and Alex Cabagnot.

Add the returning Washington to the mix and the Boosters look formidable.

Washington sat it out for more than a year because of a foot injury and his return has surprised even Petron coach Ato Agustin.

"Having Jay and Marcio has made my job easy because they're so fit perfectly," Agustin said. "Especially Jay, who will surprise everyone because he will play No. 5 (shooting forward) which he is so familiar with."

Eddie Basilio will be Petron's reinforcement and he isn't expected to have as much pressure to deliver considering the talents he is surrounded with.

Balse, Roces highlight duel of V-League titans

THE CAREERS of Mary Jean Balse and Francesca Roces have become so intertwined that as they highlight the clash of undefeated Shakey's V-League teams today, they could just put Perpetual Help's feat for a semi-final slot in the shadows at the Filoil Flying V-Arena.

Roces' Ateneo and Balse's UST clash in a duel of titans that could very much end up a Finals preview. The two teams top a three-game schedule at 4 p.m., right after Perpetual tries to tide a semifinal slot at 2 p.m. against St. La Salle and San Sebastian faces FEU at 6:30 p.m.

"I'm happy because UST has so much faith in me," Balse said in Filipino.

A two-time conference MVP, Balse has several individual honors that go with the five titles she has under her belt.

"I see the worst of this team. My role is now to guide the younger players and help them win games," the 20-year-old Balse said.

Roces, on the other hand, hardly surprised anyone when the former San Sebastian ace took her talents to Katipunan. After all, reuniting the Lady Eagles to a very familiar face. Her former coach with the Lady Stags, Roger Gorospe, now calls the shots for the Lady Eagles.

The two-time conference MVP also sees three titles, including San Sebastian's lone championship conquest in 2006.

Meanwhile, reigning NCAA champion Perpetual Help can formalize its entry into the Final Four with a victory over the Rebolusyonaryo. Lady Stingers, San Sebastian, on the other hand, hopes to 'heal' up its semifinal fate against FEU. —Rudolph Lovegrace, Contributor

Sixers tie series; Lakers rebound

PHILADELPHIA—Philadelphia's Andre Iguodala scored three straight points in the final 99 seconds as the Three-Armed Dude threw 15 points down to stun the Boston Celtics, 90-83, on Friday and square their NBA Eastern Conference semifinal series at 2-2.

The young Sixers were scrimmaging in the second half and refused to roll over for the championship-tested Celtics.

Iguodala, whose clutch performances in this postseason is turning around the often negative sentiment from fans, put the Sixers ahead, 89-83 and landed a three-pointer for a flat-point lead.

Iguodala scored 16 points, Evan Turner had 16 and Lou Williams added 15 for the Sixers, who will travel to Boston for Game 5 Monday.

Boston's Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen had scoring in an offensive monster series with nine points. Garnett, who threw 86 on Saturday, missed three of 10 shots.

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant made 16 free throws without a miss and scored 34 of his 38 points in the fourth quarters leading Los Angeles to a 99-96 thriller over Oklahoma City, evening the series 2-2.

Metta World Peace (formerly Ron Artest) assigned the ball-hawk responsibility and hit two free throws with 12.9 seconds left, the third-seeded Lakers shook off the memory of their late collapse in Game 3.

What Thunder star Kevin Durant missed a potential tying 3-pointer before Andrew Bynum blocked a shot at the buzzer; the Lakers' forward-crowd celebrated only their second victory in the past six playoff games.

"For us to step up to the free throw line and have the concentration and focus we had there to knock them down is huge," said Lakers coach Mike Brown.

Durant scored 31 points before missing his last shot for Oklahoma City, which could have moved to the brink of its second straight trip to the Western Conference finals. Instead, the Thunder lost for the first time in the postseason.

"We knew they were going to approach this game with a lot of intensity being down 0-2," Durant said. "We put ourselves in position to win, we'll just keep fighting, man."

Game 4 is the back-to-back set Saturday in Los Angeles.

Russell Westbrook and James Harden scored 21 points apiece for the Thunder, who couldn't touch the Lakers' late-game execution. Los Angeles finished on a 9-2 run in the final 31 seconds, all on free throws.

Bynum had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who got 12 points apiece from Derek Fisher, Ramon Sessions and Steve Blake. Gasol also had 11 rebounds and six assists.

Oklahoma City's bench contributed a 52-47 lead on Westbrook's breakaway dunk with 2:55 to play, but the Lakers countered away with Gasol's free throws, Bryant's layup and several possessions of tenacious defense. Bynum's free throws put the Lakers ahead with 1:09 to play.

The Lakers finished 41 of 42 from the line, and the Thunder were 20-of-26. AP Reports

KEVIN DURANT and the Oklahoma City Thunder (Offstad file) in action against the Los Angeles Lakers, 2-1. AP PHOTO

Escueta, Alcala rule PH Open badminton

By Mars Anthony Reyes

PHILIP John Escueta and Mahleen Alcala of Manila took different routes to the men's and women's open titles of the Philippine National Open Ming Ramos Youth Camp badminton championships Friday night at the Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall.

Escueta, the 19-year-old veteran of the national team, engaged defending champion and top seed Paul Jefferson Pinat in a prolonged match before surviving the encounter with a 23-15, 17-21, 21-18 decision.

Nursing a swollen right knee, Alcala pleaded along and rarely launched attacks but still poured too much for Deedee Colombio to take the women's singles title with a 20-22, 21-16 win.

Earlier, the paired with Reisel Gonzaludo recclinch the open mixed doubles crown over Gerald Ishiguro and Rochelle Bruno, 21-14, 17-21, 21-12.

Escueta, last year's semifinalist who said he wanted to eventually become a top-ranked player in the world even in doubles, came back from a one-set evening to also pull off a gold in doubles.

He paired with Peter Gabriel Magnaye to turn back Reisel Gonzaludo and Wesa, 21-16, 21-17, to the men's doubles championship.

Escueta and Alcala pocketed P40,000 each for their respective singles titles plus a share of the P80,000 purse for the doubles crowns.

National youth team's Lauro Bautista and Theodore Go downed teammates Carlos Cayanan and Gerlad Ilhagan, 21-16, 21-23, for the boys' doubles 19-under top spot.

John Kenneth Klaremdale thwarted 12-year-old Jessica Mae Pabillo Alcala to take the boys' under-15 singles title.

But Alcala, the brother of Mahleen Ann Watson, outmuscled himself with the crown in the boys' 17-under singles after beating Carlo Glenn Sioco, 21-18,21-15, and the boys' under-15 doubles title with Kenneth Cadeo.

Also in the spotlight by bagging titles were Abigail Haughton, Joselle Ann Haboc, Marina Castellan, Stella Grio de Vera, Qua Ji Chi Ianuela, Kenyon Gabuelo, Beryl Tang, Vincent Nobel Mariano and Alexis Rivada.

GABUCO

Gabuco targets boxing gold vs Chinese

QINHUANGDAO, China—Irene Gabuco of the FLOY-Alsup National Team again refused on her veteran status as she entered Wanshan Sweden Gymnasium in the nine-World Women's Boxing Championships at the Olympic Sports Center here, setting up a finals showdown with hometown host Xu Shiqi of China.

The 5-foot-6 talented World No. 1 Lynsey Riddlesomp of Wales and South Korea's Kim Hyeon-cha the way in the semifinals.

Gabuco, 25, who has been in the national team for nine years and has won two SEA Games gold medals and a World Championship bronze in 2008, among others, trailed 9-12 in the first round.

But in the ensuing rounds, the single southpaw of nine Bani, Pantoc Princess City rallied down and pumped it on with crushing hooks, straights and uppercuts that stunned Guevarra, the current European champion.

She caught up with the Thailander in the second at 4-4, took the lead in the third at 6-5 and had a comfortable 12-7 edge at the final bell.

"I studied her style," said a triumphant Gabuco in Filipino after the match. "She's a quick southpaw but I figured I was faster. So I stayed out of the exchanges, then waited my attack to outdraw her."

"It's going to be tougher tomorrow because there is a big home crowd set to support my finals opponent. But I am ready," said Gabuco.

Team Manager and Alba International technical official Ramon Picson expects Gabuco to bring everything on the line in the finals.

"She'll give it her all," the coach-the company of teams Shelly Pinuela and Mae Kate Agacid, coaches Elsa Bernido Jr. and Michel Martinez, and Alsup executive director NOY-boy.

Gandionco still red-hot, wins by five

CEBU—Local bet Eric Gandionco recovered from a sluggish start with a fiery final round while Raquel Zaragoza survived a last-day struggle in clinching the titles in their respective divisions in the 54-hole Invitational leg of the Franklin Millares Jenkin Golf Classic at the rolling Alta Vista Golf and Country Club course here.

Gandionco showed why he's the country's hottest player in his age group when he bounced back from a 74 in the opening round with a scorching five-under par 67 the next day to tune it to five-birdie-six in boys' Class B.

With a 141 total for 36 holes, the scion of one of the country's biggest furnishings dealers finished comfortably ahead of Alta Vista's David Ball (72-74-146) and Ani Blaz (75-71-147) for his second straight victory in the series.

It was a different story but the same result for Cardalong but Zaragoza who was playing just in his second event since getting back in the grooves from a break but life-threatening accident in his home club that sidelined him for two months.

Zaragoza was not at his best on the final day but still rounded out a stellar five-shot win in boys' Class B with his 71-73-144 effort on the journey field under the aegis of the ICTSI Asian Golf Circuit organized by the Frankie Millares Joseph Foundation and Alta Vista Golf conservatively by James Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Second-place score in Boysmen Valentino of Australia (69-75-144) while first lap winner Jeffrey Gamolo of Del Monte (77-79-156).

Big J's No. 7: Rajko's tough drills

ON OCCASIONS when I bump into the country's most popular cager, Dr. Ubaldo Legend Jimmy Javenilla, his always jokes about something more than to do the PBA, than to crossbar between players.

Or maybe both, since he was a playing coach when he left the PBA twice done to the tune of the century. Even if he is now confined into the sidelines.

"Sir, sor ser officially retired so I can still play if there's a team that will hire me," the 7'0 would say a big smile plastered on his face.

It was about 15 years but a last the famous by. Perhaps the Big J used to wear in his decades of active playing will be affectionately retired in the Desert Inverse Golf-mon on May 27 Sunday before the Gimme-8 tilting game.

ARTI's Fred Mura said there will be a short tribute for the Living legend, who, according to PBA chief historian Willy Marquinez III, last played in Game 6 of the All-Filipino Cup against Purefoods on May 15, 1997.

On May 20, 2003, Javenilla played in a Talpan Cargo exhibition match where he made a three-point shot from no more by Alvin Fernandez in another game.

* * *

IN HUDDLE

Boyfs Gebs

Rhea Navarro was quick to come to the defense of Serbian basketball coach Rajko Toroman, recently appointed Jun Miguel Cuy, sports consultant.

Rhea works as liaison officer of the Philippine Basketball Association and is currently based in Serbia.

Here in Manila to attend the funeral of a close family friend, I was telling my longtime pal of criticisms that Joe heard about the serious-mindedly guarding training program implemented by the former Philippine basketeers.

Players have complained that he makes them do too many manual exercises, to the point that their tongues are literally hanging out in exhaustion and there is practically no energy left for them for the equally strenuous drills that follow.

"Pampaso talagas," remarked one cager.

* * *

According to Rhea, the Toroman program is patterned after the rigid Serbian formula designed to fully condition the players physically and mentally.

"Ultimately the hard work will pay off," she said.

I took this to mean that if the Serbs expect, or Bobby Parks Jill, one needs any more to see Toroman produce a winner ultimately and up as strong as Superman and at like as Spiderman—or something close to their mythical superpowers.

However, from what I overheard just the other night, this is hardly the case. Perhaps, I didn't mean to eavesdrop but the conversation between two PBA coaches and a colleague was within earshot, it was impossible for the talk to escape my ears.

I heard one of the coaches say that based on the latest feedback, the players have started to rebel and as a consequence are refusing to slowly adhere to the orders of the Serbian coach. He never let 30 seconds of running for three.

Incidentally there is another foreign basketball coach that has been the object of complaints of his players.

This brand new foreign set last long in his current post, according to some of his players, since he has this foul habit of blowing whistles even when his players, when something goes wrong.

"He makes a finger or us, or whoever he perceives to have committed the error, right in front of the whole team, not bothering to spare us the embarrassment," said the player.

* * *

Dating his recent fight with Omar Niño Romero here in Manila, WBO flyweight champion Nhar Vilorio admitted there had been moments when he lost focus on the task at hand.

"I was tired and bored at times and again by Romero's unorthodox wide-blind scoring, without an it. It looked like the motto of a gym," Brian said.

Good thing his motivator didn't permit the former of Sanco or he would have gotten closer to the face of Romero to get a better look.

Hard to tell what would have happened.

"I think the same matters on the sweepstakes was laughter—or it would have been funnies, something like that.

"Definitely it starts with a 1. Could have to form the name of his division," Ian said.

Ramos, Caculitan stun shuttle seeds

DIAMANTA Ramos and Marina Caculitan forged upsets at the start of the MVP Sports Foundation, Philippine Badminton Training System (PBATS) circuit at the Metro Sports Center in Laneg, Cebu City yesterday.

Ramos, a golden Shuttle Foundation member, outlasted fifth seed Jonalou Sara of Whackers-Laneg, 21-14, 11-21, 21-12, to advance to the second round of the girls' Under-19 singles against Sara of their CAMP Foundation teammate, fellow student Camille Dolores, 16-21, 22-20, 21-18.

Caculitan, on the other hand, stamped her class against 2SP No. 4 Shaina Sioco, 21-7, 21-6, also in 5-16 class of the event sponsored by SGM, Pilipinas and serving as the kickoff leg of the three-stage circuit.

The second lady, however, rolled past their rivals in the other divisions of the event, organized by the Philippine Badminton Association-headed by Ako Prexidenti Agustin Teruel, with trained-mentor Dado Zamudiaz Cuizon and consultancy provided by Ryan Fernandez.

Results: Girls' Juniorbus Cadet (unofficial) 21-16, 21-9 and Maverick Perez, 21-12, 21-13, to clinch the second of the men's Open singles.

Garovillo rules gymnastics tilt

ROMBLON Police standout Mary Carmela Garovillo and hosts Andrea Margaret Elvira stood in sole the senior and junior divisions of rhythmic gymnastics in the 2nd PCC-PSC National Games at the Governor's Convention Center here.

Garovillo reaped the nod (8.80), hoop (8.60), ribbon (7.80), and clubs (7.67) routines in the all-around title.

Jean Calanoranio, who placed second to Garovillo in all of the apparatus except the hoop, was also runner-up in the all-around and took the silver while Karen Ribina Pelea, the bronze in the event supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and organized by the Gymnastics Association of the Philippines.

The happy hosts after winning the inaugural PSC competitions in Bacolod, last Samuelle, 16, of Ilocos Sur, who missed the two gold medals last year because of a fractured left ankle.

The 14-year-old Elvira topped the ball (7.17), hoop (7.10) clubs (8.23) and was second to the ribbon (8.0) to secure the all-around gold, maintaining her superiority in the division for the second straight year.

GOLD medalist Mary Carmela Garovillo of Cebu (middle) flashes a peace sign for the podium together with silver medalist Jean Calanoranio (left) and bronze medalist Karen Ribina Pelea.

Castrol 2nd leg up

AT TURON and Mark Tanio shoot for their second straight victories when the second leg of the 2010 Castrol Championship of the Future Series rolls off today at Subic's Triangle.

Tuason a favorite series in the Expert division while the 13-year-old Tanio hopes to continue his winning streak in the Novice class.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. Open practice starts at 9. Qualifying time trials are set at 11 p.m. while the three-lap final and time runs are slated at 3 with the race. For details, call (02) 8 4-0700.

Motor grand prix slated

THE FIRST ever 220-KM GP Grand Prix slated May 27 has drawn 68 riders, with many more expected to join the event at the Clark Race Track.

Riders will be opting for the Bikes or the event. The 110-125cc Stock, 150 Modified, the Replica Pro 150 Modified, the Top 1 Bikes Stock, 250 Modified, the JVT Scooters, 150 Modified and the 4 Valves 150 Scooters Modified.

For details and registration, call 851 1 3000/30 (0646-0807) 96 (0825-900868, 8041 2174/80 (0626-4344402 or 0922-7176264

ELDER Kleskeverov of NLU (left) moves to rebound as he tries to shove off the defense of Adamson's Eric Camson.

Loyola Meralco trips Geylang in extra time

Bulldogs nip Falcons, keep Filoil slate clean

By Jasmine W. Paya

EMILIANO, Mo Fraud himself with the loose ball and turned it on the game-winner with 1.4 seconds left as National University zipped Adamson, 69-67, yesterday to complete an 8-0 elimination sweep at the Filoil Flying V Preseason Master Cup at the Filoil Flying V Arena.

Mbe, who scored the Bulldogs' last six points in the final 53 seconds, nailed the decider deep in the post after secretary Jeoffrey Combinido's attempt got deflected.

"We learned how to execute in the endgame, last year that was our weakness," said NU coach Eric Altamirano. "The players were patient and calm."

Mbe finished with 26 points, including eight of the Bulldogs' 10 fourth-quarter points, and added 13 rebounds.

In Group A, Perpetual Help snapped a five-game losing skid with a 63-59 triumph over Mapua.

Jiet Vidal fired 16 points, while big man Femi Babayemi had 13 points, 13 boards and three blocks as the Altas tied their victims at 1-1.

The Bulldogs' perfect elimination run in Group B came a day before the squad left for a five-week training in Ebina.

Ray Parks had 13 points, seven rebounds and four assists for the Bulldogs.

The Falcons dropped to 2-2.

With reports from Jun Rellosa, Rodolfo Asuncion and Ronald Lyle Lumagnas

The spoils

NCAA Finals

FIRST GAME

NU (69) – Mbe 26, Babayemi 13, Arbasto 10, Vidal 9, Salvacion 7, Parks 3, Ildefonso 1, Ayaay 0, Sumang 0, Ramirez 0, Lastimosa 0.

ADAMSON (67) – Ramos 19, Bonifacio 9, Jamili 7, Tiamzon 6, Ando 5, Ybañez 4, Dionisio 3, Estrada 3, Orolfo 1, Elloso 0, Ignacio 0.

Quarters: 8-16, 28-30, 45-45, 69-67.

Second Game

BIG BLUE (63) – Nitura 17, Andrewin 11, Sanchez 8, Tungcab 8, Jay Gonzales 7, Lalimarmo 5, Villamor 2, Cuello 2, Nwosu 2, Mendoza 1, Magsaysay 0, Sangco 0.

LIGHTHOUSE (59) – Carrion 18, Sison 12, Bonifacio 11, Cabrera 8, Orolfo 8, Diaz 4, Pantoja 3, Antipuesto 2, Gallego 1, Nolasco 1, Bonifacio 1, Agustin 0.

Quarters: 19-15, 37-32, 54-47, 63-59.

"The team spirit was unbelievable," said Hermann. "We should have been winning earlier but we succeeded a snippy goal."

With the win, the Sparks booked a return trip to Singapore to face the winner between Harimau side Kedah-ssea and S-League team Woodlands-ssea-run, leg tie in July.

Despite getting four-star chances in the first 45 minutes, the Sparks fell behind on a 63rd minute strike from Geylang's English midfielder Elshaad. Ilog after a breakdown as a makeshift Loyola defense that included Pob and Norway Jerome Paul, who were both out the past two matches because of dengue fever.

But the Sparks regrouped after the break and found the breakthrough when James Younghusband crossed to Hartmann, who controlled with his chest, before volleying it past Geylang goalkeeper Rezal Hanis.

Hartmann was also involved in the game-winner, bringing the ball into a dangerous area, before the ball fell kindly to Pob, whose long-range effort deflected off a defender and found the top corner.

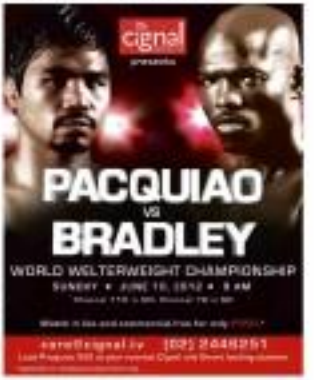
It was another milestone for the sport in the country as the Sparks were joined against a side that won the Cup three years ago and were playing in one of the more developed leagues in Southeast Asia.

"This is great for our domestic league and our objective of being competitive in the region," said Loyola Meralco Sparks boss Randy Hunt, who is also UFL president.

The Sparks finished a three-year hiatus kick-off when the Philippine Football Federation maintained that the one-year suspension on Harbour Hammers also included international club competitions, making him ineligible for the match.

"We just came back and kept going until the end, even though some players had cramps," said Phil Younghusband.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE Members of the Jeonnghil squad, headed by the First Seo Jeonnghil Men's Age Group boys' 10-U singles champion Calvin Cardas, 10-U doubles winner Enrique Ferrer, Paolo Sr. Claudio Cunha and Joel Mirasol, get together with officials of the Hyogo Tennis Association, headed by Kazuo Takemori, during the team's 2004 to Japan as part of the Jeonnghil-Hyogo Exchange Program. Eight junior Japanese players also visited the country in December donated to play tennis and get to know Philippine culture.



Kaya regains UFL lead, turns back Nomads

By Cedell P. Tupas

KAYA edged Nomads Anchtoc Manila, 2-1, last night to climb back to the top of the United Football League at the University of Makati (UMak).

Goals from Ale Fighi and Joshua Beloya in each half secured the unanimous points for Kaya, which also needed a solid performance from substitute goalkeeper Russel Pierson.

Kaya's early dominance paid off when Fighi scored from close range in the 16th minute, before Beloya's volley 10 minutes into the second half doubled the advantage.

The win lifted Kaya a point clear of Global, which still has a game in hand, and four ahead of Loyola Meralco.

Earlier, Army Nite and Manila ended an eight-game winless skids with a 3-0 victory over Navy Red Anter.

Nwosu in Hargrave found the back of the net and assisted on the first goal, before Melton Palmer capped the scoring for Army in the 72nd minute.

Still, Navy gave Army a scare, nailing two goals through Arnold Cantos and Peter Bailey galore in the second half, even as Army wasted at least five glorious chances to seal the win earlier.

CYRUS BAGUIO
NIÑO CANALETA
JAYSON CASTRO
JVEE CASIO
MARC PINGRIS
JEFF CHAN
REN-REN RITUALO
CHRIS LUTZ
RONALD TUBID
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Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espino

Sunday BIZ

Filipino Silicon Valley veterans give back

NOVARE Technologies reinforced its position as a stalwart advocate of the technological skills of aspiring Filipino start-ups after recently supporting the DAC Business Plan Competition at HINT College in Tagaig City, as the Science and Technology Advisory Council, Silicon Valley (STAC SV) finalized all its last leg of the regional competitions.

By Paolo G. Montecillo

CHRISTINA Laskowski was just one of the many bright minds in the Silicon Valley ecosystem of entrepreneurs and venture capitalists that helped turn Northern California into the world's center of technology innovation.

But like most in California, Laskowski, née Rodriguez, was not born in the United States. Like millions of others, she moved with her family in chase the American Dream, which brought her into the same environment that helped shape companies like Apple, Google and Face-

FILIPINOS B2

Family turns rest house into lucrative tourism site

By Yolanda Sotelo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAUG, Pangasinan—Tucked in the seaside village of Dacap Norte here, a compound where a family spends their vacation each summer is slowly being turned into a tourist resort that harnesses the ecosystem potentials of this area.

The seven hectares Old Woods by the Sea, which faces the West Philippine Sea, is still a work in progress, says Elizabeth Navarro, a retired doctor who, with husband Mayor Marcelo Navarro, owns and operates the resort.

But already, friends and guests are coming to enjoy what the countryside offers, the sea.

Nature lovers will enjoy the resort's pristine white sand beaches, cover, secluded seashore, a 12-kilometer long river, a secluded, a mangrove forest and catchment for fish and birds.

"This was not intended to be a resort," Marcelo says. "We built the original house in 1993 to be a retirement house for Daddy (his father and namesake, the late Mayor Marcelo Navarro Sr.), and as a summer place for family members."

"[My father] loved to plant trees and he planted most of the trees here. But we lost him in 1997. The place was left unattended until 2001 when we repaired the house. I planned it to be my retirement home."

The resort's name, its owners say, may refer to the old town around the compound and to the cottages built from wood salvaged from old buildings, churches and ruins beds.

Seven cottages were built without damaging the natural elements in the area. For instance, if one finds a rock inside a room, it is because it was there before the cottage's construction. If two branches shade a porch, it is because these have not been trimmed.

The cottages have curious names. "Baday Bai's" (cottage) name stood because the deeper the workers dug when they were preparing its foundation, the more rocks and stones they uncovered.

Baloy Bato was supposed to be the "dirty kitchen" where firewood used for cooking would be stored. But the resort staff did not want to damage the structure so it was turned into a cottage instead.

Another cottage named was as a posting died for Elizabeth, who loves gardening. When British birdwatchers advised local officials that they would visit the town, the staff was asked to accommodate them.

The "Tinapayag" was where the mayor held meetings with his political supporters.

FAMILY B2

SAMPOL FAMILY

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Dilman Preparatory School offers quality education from the pre-school to the tertiary levels at its two campuses - Commonwealth Avenue and Novaliches. The institution partnered with Sun Business for the implementation of the Gatekeeper Solution, a messaging solution that sends important SMS notifications to parents.

THE PRO-BUSINESS SOLUTION

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Family turns rest house into lucrative tourism site

Front page B1

FLOWERS bloom at Old Woods by the Sea resort.

TIMPUYOG, or gathering place, often combines a rest and workshop space at Old Woods.

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It has been turned into a guest house with two bedrooms and a function room.

Some cottages were named after the trees near them—"Santol," "Sasaban," "Old Woods," "Tinyan," and "Binggas."

"Binggas cottage used to be called 'binggahan' (lipstick plant) as it was meant that way, but the wood carvers thought it was very long to not changed it to mangga instead," Elizabeth says.

She says none of the cottages has air-conditioning because they want their guests to experience the natural environment. The resort is supplied by spring water.

Best eaters to the adventurous. There is a hike route to the pitjuicy-ago area of Sitetip, or tourists can go kayaking, scuba diving or swimming. The beach is accessible through a trail that descends from the resort.

Olutaon cove and Talusog beach in Barangay Dasap-Sur are alternative places for tourists to visit.

Guests can also explore the Nalaya cave in Barangay Colayo. The cave system of Nalaya (which means "big hole" in Ilocano) boasts of stalactites and stalagmites.

Other nearby treats for nature lovers are the Balingasway falls in Ramos village and the Bungro mangrove forest in Bacnit Ilaged village.

The Bungro mangrove forest is included in the 2008 book, "Bird Watching in the Philippines," as one of the 17 best bird-watching sites in the country.

And to cap a fitting day around town, the Old Woods by the Seaside Inn feeds and coffee at the Cafe Ilaga both, a cottage serves tea of green

A BEDROOM at Old Woods by the Sea

OLD Woods offers tours to the Bungro mangrove forest in San Miguel, who's migratory birds flock.

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Filipino Silicon Valley . . .

From page B1

bank.

In 2007, Ladowski together with fellow Filipino-born Fey began educated Americans—all members of the Cost-era Philippine Science and Technology Advisory Council. Silicon Valley chapter (STAC-SV)—decided that their talents should be brought to where they were needed the most: the Philippines.

"We wanted to reverse the brain drain in the Philippines," said Ladowski, STAC-SV's president.

After five years of work, STAC-SV is seeing the fruits of its labor. The group recently organized ONO, the Philippines' first technology "pitch" competition.

Patterned after similar pitch events in the United States, Ghana and Singapore, ONO gives entrepreneurs five minutes to make short, three-minute presentations about their innovations in front of a room of potential venture capitalists and angel investors.

Entrepreneurs that are able to pique the interests of other participants don't get gold medals or trophies at the end of the show. They are given contracts and large sums of money to get their products ready for the mass-consumer market.

> "We wanted to reverse the brain drain in the Philippines"

How it all began

In the late 1980s, then Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs Federico "Boli" Macaraeg had the idea of harnessing the intellectual capital that resided in science and technology forward professionals of Filipino descent throughout a global network.

It was decided that the global network would be comprised of local hubs known as Science & Technology Advisory Councils.

These councils would provide practical advice on activities in the academic and research arenas in the Philippines and provide input to the Philippine government regarding the viability to convert the ideas into meaningful global ventures and technology related industries.

Members of the Silicon Valley (STAC include Jojo Hilario, head of ONO program; former Motorola, the group's chief engineering officer and serial entrepreneur; Estella Labagnara, 14-year Silicon Valley veteran and the group's analytical operations specialist; and mentor/M&A specialist Ernesto Puja.

Perfect time for startups

In 2007, STAC-SV saw how the Philippines—through the suspension between the government and the private sector—was slow to develop the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

"They built an industry here even to $10 billion in under a decade," she said. "The Philippines was not ready for us before that. So we were helping a lot of American companies become successful."

STAC-SV's confinement of ONO comes at a perfect time for Filipino entrepreneurs, Ladowski said, noting that several big corporations are starting to realize the potential in investing in startups.

The ONO competition kicked off last April 10 in Cebu for its Visayas regional leg. Last April 16, the Philippine College of Science and Technology in Subolan, Calumpit, Pampanga was host for the Northern Luzon leg. The Southern Luzon and Metro Manila leg, meanwhile, was held on April 19 at Mapúa International College at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Finalists from the three regional legs participate in the finals to be held in July here in Metro Manila.

Aside from the potential investment in startups, finals participants will also be judged by STAC-SV members. The last teams will win three-month Silicon Valley Immersion packages sponsored by Plug and Play Tech Center in Sunnyvale, California.

Ladowski said the goal of STAC-SV was to help build an ecosystem made up of the academe, the government, and the private sector that encourages young, brilliant minds to pursue their ideas.

"We want to spur the growth of industries that can become global," she said. "Our hope and our dream is to create opportunities in the Philippines so that generations after us can have an economy that is not sustained by just remittances."

The biggest hurdle that has to be overcome is the perception from potential investors—big corporations or just plain Filipinos with plenty of money to spare—about startups.

"There are a lot of rich people in the Philippines, but startups are not on their radars," Ladowski said. "The best thing we can do to solve that is to show them success stories. People are conservative here in the Philippines. But once they start seeing other people succeeding in this field, they will follow."

Down in Dauin lives . . .

From page B1

that ever since, and that day may lose her ability to reproduce that much milk for that particular lactating period," Bender says.

Units in the Century produce one to two liters of milk a day. Dairy products—such as milk, cheese, butter, ice cream and yogurt—from the Anglo-Nubian stock are known for its high butterfat content and smooth flavor.

"When the local households start tending to better quality goats like these Anglo-Nubian, then we can also begin to understand how to better cook goat meat for food," Bender explains.

Mr. says cooked goat meat does not have to have that certain pungent smell that some not a few people off.

There are gourmet ways of preparing goat meat aside from the all-too-common kaldereta (goat stew with tomato paste), a favorite fiesta fare.

The seemingly profusion goat meat (called chevon, or colloquially referred to as mutton) can be baked, grilled, barbecued, minced, sautéed, fried, roasted, made into sausage, or cooked like the all-time Filipino favorite (cooked crackling pig).

He tells Akme to keep making goat cheese at home and researching various flavors.

So far, the best option is a lot of thumbs up from local consumers for her goat cheese in pizzerias, basil, onion & chives, and celery to savor a few.

Bender says goat meat, goat milk, goat cheese, and goat yoghurt are "not only important for people's health, but that their production is manageable, doable, and profitable."

He says that although he has no figures to prove this, he is beginning to realize how lucrative the business is.

Bender has registered the trademark for his dairy— The Goatman—which he hopes will be a success in major markets in the country.

"There will be a big demand for goat products when people begin to realize its health benefits," says Bender.

Milk, for example, must be considered "food" rather than merely a drink, whose medicinal and health values is currently greatly underestimated in the food community.

Goat milk is documented as a good source of calcium, protein, vitamins and minerals for those who have allergies, or are on low-sodium diet.

Goat meat, on the other hand, is the leanest, and contains even less fat than chicken.

Bender and his veterinarian manager are currently trying to maximize the use of whey (the watery part of curd, which is the second milk used for making cheese) as vinegar, and as a protein drink for a healthy diet.

Hobby has turned into a serious business for Georg Bender

GOINGS-ON

Resorts World opens VIP lounge

In its pursuit to provide its VIP members the most convenient ways to access its services, Resorts World Manila opens the RWM Lounge in its partnering Lucky Chinatown Mall in Binondo, Manila.

The Resorts World Lounge, which was opened on April 29, caters to VIP members as the area where access to various RWM membership services, while accommodating interested and potential members as well.

Services offered in the newly installed RWM Lounge include membership acquisition, card issuances and upgrades, Resorts World Manila and Newport Performing Arts Theatre events information, ticketing, and reservations, Casino Marketing House programs info; and RWM Tour packages and promos.

Also for the members' convenience, the RWM Lounge accept cash deposits for gaming related transactions. Prizes redemption are encashment while for points updates, membership kiosks are also made available.

OtterBox makes new case

OtterBox, the leading brand for gadget protective gear, has introduced a new Defender case for Apple's new iPad.

Known for its rugged protection and all inclusive for consolidated use, the OtterBox Defender boasts a high-impact inner polycarbonate shell, with a built-in foam (screen) that provides additional shock absorption and protects the back of the iPad from scratches, perfect for on-the-go professionals who like to keep their gadgets in mint conditions.

The OtterBox Defender for the new iPad's precision design ensures all features and functions are accessible with the case on, so it stays protected while connected.

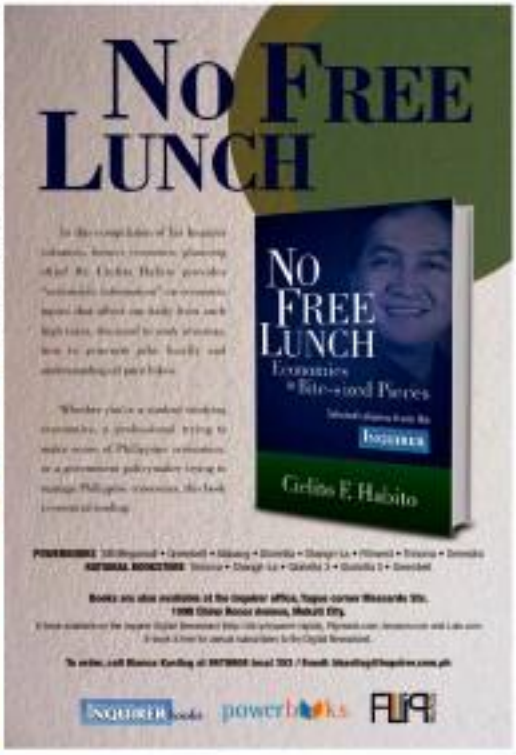
Gour manners is also being eyed in the farm's eco-tourism aiming also to facilitate the eager grass grazers on the farm.

"Inside and I just eat any grass. For good six o'clock, they have to be fed the good kind of grass and legume plants and fodder. And they have to clean it in sufficient quantity at the right time," Bender explains.

It may take a while before the goatherd and his workers make it big in Negros Oriental.

But Bender is confident.

"If we would produce at least a good percentage of the consumption demand for goat meat, goat milk, and good cheese, we would have done our job of being self-sufficient," Bender says.



Sunday BIZ

Down in Dauin lives a wealthy goatherd

By Irma Faith B. Pal
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—It didn't come as a surprise to many when Georg Bender, a former fashion designer from Germany, decided to build a dive resort in Puerto Galera in 1995 after an extended dive vacation.

Georg Bender soon to his Anglo Nubian dairy goat.

Bender's stock has grown close to 500 goats

His friends didn't raise an eyebrow when he opened another dive resort in Dauin town, Negros Oriental following the success of his first venture.

But his friends were shocked when they learned of his new passion: goat farming.

His stock has since grown close to 500 goats, producing high quality milk and meat.

The love affair started five years ago when Bender, 55, bought a five-hectare property in Dauin, which was originally a mango orchard-turned-plantation.

A former employee, Bender from Switzerland, who took care of the development of the Dauin property, also brought in 23 head of best goats—descendants of a breed from South African which is good for meat production.

Bender then thought of taking care of the goats on a new hobby.

Later, someone introduced Bender to Anglo-Nubian goats. Also called Nubians, these are dairy goats that produce rich milk for a variety of dairy products, including some of the world's finest cheeses.

The male Nubian goats may grow as heavy as 90 kilos and 35 inches tall. Nubians have elongated and floppy ears.

With the help of veterinarian Ed Brac, who is also manager of a farm called The Country Retailer combed his goats to obtain breeds close to 100 percent pure-bred.

"In the beginning, we would not open the barn to visitors, simply because our stock was not of good quality. Now, we are enthusiastic about our breeding stock. It shows that, over the last five years, all the hard work and the big investment has resulted in one of the most outstanding goat farms in the country," Bender proudly says.

"Of course, this time, I feel this is not visiting anymore."

Bender and his landmark—three Dauin residents for every 10 goats—have developed a close relationship with the goats, each of whom they call by name, and whose statistics—such as breed, characteristics, dairy value, production capacity, and offspring—are meticulously recorded on a database.

The landmark monitor every day to ensure that the milking schedule is not missed.

"You only have a small window of 'on' hours when the does need to be milked. You can

CONTINUED ON

Power Situation Outlook
for Sunday, 20 May 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
[illegible]	8,287	1,780	1,172
[illegible]	6,452	1,297	1,083
[illegible]	1,845	483	110

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor

SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

Contributing Editor Chit Roces

The Onib ties: 'Daddy, bakit ang galing mong gumawa ng pangit?'

Gone 16 years now, he lives in the stories and memories of friends and family

"Onib Gimeno," by Vergel Santos

By Chit Roces

I WOULDN'T hang that in my bathroom."

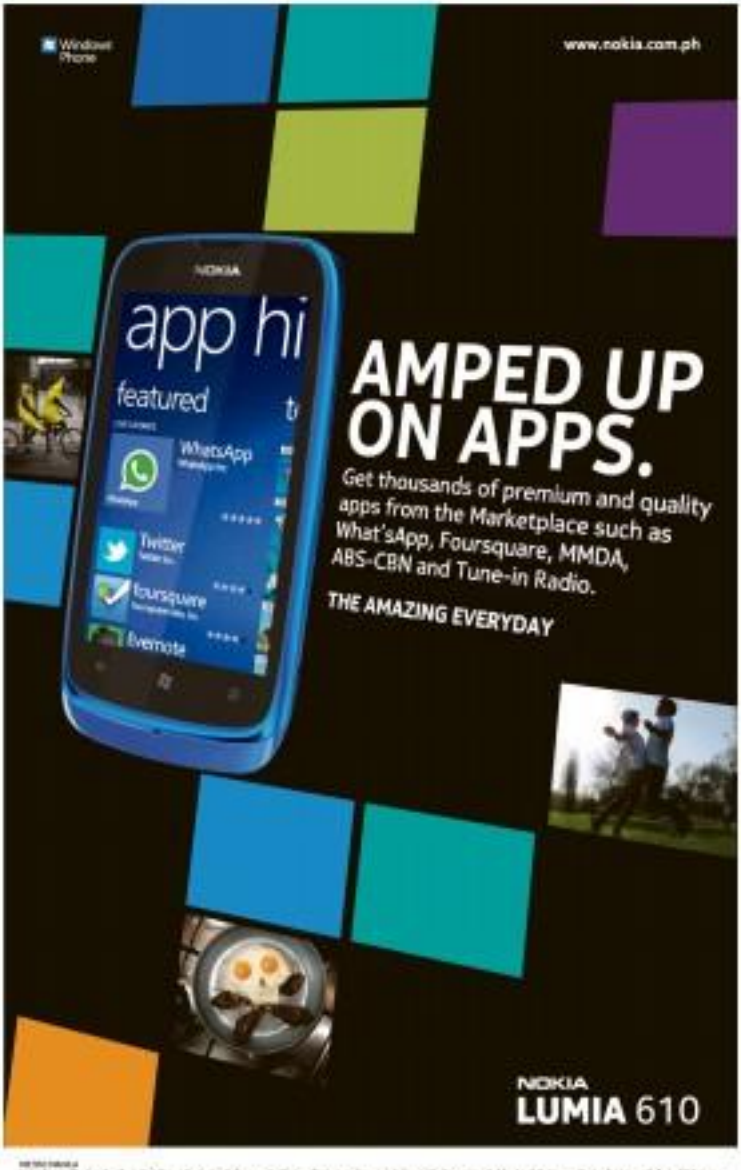
The remark has become quite infamous since one curator made it upon coming into virginal contact with Onib Gimeno's art. Britina Gimeno Sawall swathed it subtly in her husband's career as a painter, from a secretary museum who, like many at the time, bought a painting for one of two reasons, or both: as an ornament of interior decoration and as a coveted item by an artist in current demand.

Truth to tell, in the '70s, before it bled more vibrant colors, Onib's dark and distorted art had not been easy to get used to. Indeed, it may be that gallery-goers, unlike our museum, subconsciously saw the day the not only passed up the chance to acquire an Onib but in fact pooh-poohed it, withheld their judgment out of either fear of exposing their ignorance or plain politeness.

But then again, only a few seemed to suspect or recognize Onib's genius when they saw it. In any case, it's the collectors among them who now should be realizing their fortune from his genius, for, as we all know now, despite a relatively short career—he was dead at only 39—his place is secure in the pantheon of contemporary art. (A test of his art in commemorative has 75th birthday on July 7, has begun. The first exhibit opened May 5 in Cheribel City and will go on until June 15. It goes to other cities from there.)

My husband, Siegel, loved Onib's art at first sight, although he counts his Onib-fortune in their memories of friendship—two pastel portraits of him hang-

THE ONIB TIES >>



People are more fun in the Philippines

Between dips, Jiggs would tell me about his life, the wife and child he loved, and his 'fatally attracted' girlfriend who worked in massage parlor

Gilda Cordero Fernando

FOREVER 81

AFTER LUNCH, Anna Stenhoe, my son and his wife take me to a Thai massage place called Yothin, a quiet oasis in the neighborhood. Unobtrusive girls with powerful arms who rather resemble me of a DI in boar's snacks. His name was Jiggs and he had a girlfriend who was a masseuse.

Jiggs had dreadlocks bought hair in a ponytail which, according to my conversation, made him look either like a pro or a drug addict. They pro- ferred clean-cut Ilocanos so gaped how only when there was no one else.

But Jiggs was my favorite! Why? Because I wasn't interested in having a spinal digress- ion tango dancer. Jiggs wasn't in nature's, he would let me loose in the middle of a sequence to choreograph my own dance, and he invented his own steps, too. It was fun. A combin- of things he was not with the floor and lifted me six high (pound like a winning racehorse, of course) that I could touch Rose's chandelier.

More than all that...Jiggs was a great storyteller. Between dips, he would tell me about his life, his ex-wife, his wife and child that he loved, and his "fatally attracted" girlfriend who worked in a massage par- lor.

Whenever Jiggs tried to break up with his girlfriend, she would attempt to kill herself. A few of these ad- ventures ended in her near- demise. Whenever she made a suicide try, however, he was able to intercept it.

Once Jiggs was absent from dance class. The girlfriend had slashed her wrist again, he told me, because she had learned that he had plans of wedding abroad.

When Jiggs got to her, blood was spurting out of her wrist like a small fountain and in the process his thumb on the wound. She was sobbing hysterically and he held her down, thanking her and saying he loved her, etc., etc. He couldn't ask the help because every time his thumb was dislodged the blood would ar- rest of the slash again.

It took more than an hour before he could stanch the flow and the girl could be brought to the hospital.

A month later, Jiggs scooped dancing at Rose's. He learned that he had left for Saudi.

Mr. Sosa, the good teacher

Recently I saw Mr. Sosa again at Dinor and Pier Sixties (pier's not visible at Alliance Francaise). He was attending Claude Pier's one-hotel, plastic- laminated (sic). Mr. Sosa is everybody's beginning painting teacher, including Cookie's.

He saw even calls him anything but Mr. Sosa. Everybody loves him because he is a very encouraging teacher. No matter what your style is, in matter how talented or lousy you are, Mr. Sosa makes you feel like you will end up a famous artist.

Last Thursday, Mr. Sosa did see- ursive when I told him my age. He said his own mother had just turned 93 but was still spry enough to crawl away in the cane- ries at the convent.

On her 80th birthday, Mr. Sosa swept her off her feet and cradled her in his arms like a baby. He had a photo of it and sent me one. It's somewhere in this article.

Carole, the Bangus Queen

I always wondered why I have a resistance to bangus. Maybe because at one point to my life I had a mobile of it.

Mr. once had a cook named Carole. When she was applying for the job, I asked her what she was looking for and she re- plied, "Everything!"

She was a persistent cook. Carole soaked a bangus in ban- gus, pritong bangus, rollong bangus, relyenong bangus and gil-daling bangus.

She insisted on going to mar- ket herself and always bought bangus. Whenever we bought chicken or anything else it re- mained unrelished in the freez- er.

Mr. didn't want to let her go because she was industrious and we hoped to interest her in washing clothes instead. Once, in the middle of the night, I saw her washing a whole big wok of pulow in a bangus. Before I could make a comment, Carole said she was cooking it for our family. She said nobody would pay for because she had bought all the ingredients with her own money.

Eventually we began to eat out. Carole took the last and re- signed.

Jaime the magician

An old artist friend, James Gaerlan, was once married to a lovely, hippie-English musician named Anna, and they had over- en children. They lived by a riv- er in Cubao, Laguna. My friends and Cubao children's mom and bought their pottery.

The children lived wild and free...Since there were so many of them it was difficult to bestow them individually. In the first thing the kids did each morning was to jump into the river for their ablutions.

Eventually the family decid- ed to relocate somewhere in the North (can't remember where, this was sometime in the '70s). I happened to be in the area at the time. (I can't remember why either) and James asked me to visit the house he had found on top of a small mountain. He had to hand water from a well at its foot.

I didn't realize the family had not relocated yet. Only James and their cat (Pussycat, of course, which were still in bundles and boxes and baskets. In those I was amid the chaos.

Without hesitation James pulled out three bank giftware. It was out of a carton and put them around the coffee table. Then what looked like an awning over the table top. He found a hair-raised bottle, folded some- where, and we had tea. A few candles and incense sticks were spirited out and lighted.

We even had some din- ner—several boiled camote from his backpack and a piece of hard jerky that he said was venison. All of these were served on Ann's brand-ful hand made clothes from another bus- ker. We toasted on sapay.

That, I think, is the gift of the true artisan....they can conjure magic on the spot!

"HAPPIER People," art by OCP, owned by Mariel Francisco

EDNA evadne (sic) 11: your-400-nadkit

'Babalik ka rin'

One time she accosted my daughter Claudine's boyfriend, 'Hoy bata ka! Pumanaog ka na (take the stairs and go down) at gabi na!'

Minyong Ordoñez

GUT FEEL

I KNOW this old handsman by heart. Inay Aurea sang "Babalik Ka Rin" often.

When I was a little boy, she would take me along to the house of her cousin, silver lady Sison on Sun- days. The many-owned one of those pi- anos in town. She would play the pi- ano and Inay Aurea would sing "Ba- balik Ka Rin" with a lot of feeling. Inay Aurea knew what loneliness was all about.

In 1937, my father Godofredo, called "Godong," died of tuberculosis (no known pharmacological cure at that time), leaving Inay Aurea wid- owed only after two years of married life. I was only one year old when my father died. Inay Aurea told me that my father cried on his deathbed at the thought of leaving her orphaned.

Happenstance! In 1987, when I was president and chief creative off- icer of Basic Advertising, we were brainstorming on an ad campaign for Tony Perez Philippines. Our task was to increase sales by tapping OFW shopping savings (dollar reserves). We decided to anchor our creative strategy on the big emotion of OFW homesickness, the loneliness of those left behind and the overflowing hap- piness of reunion upon the return of an OFW.

While brainstorming, several cre- ative directors were being thrown in on the table. Iteratively, I hum- me a song, "Babalik Ka Rin." Nancy Gallar- do, our creative director then (now CEO and founder of Zamora and Asso- ci), blurted out: "That's it! That's it! Babalik ka rin! That's our campaign!"

The "Babalik Ka Rin" TV commer- cial was such a big hit it broke sales records in Duty Free. Gary Valenciano sang a new soulful "Babalik Ka Rin" version created by Louie Ocampo. If not for Inay Aurea, I would not have the insight to use loneliness as a pow- erful element in jumping the huge OFW market and maximize market shares.

Powerful words

Ako ay isang anyong inusnot (This is my body)

Ito ay aking dalo sangkatauhan (This is the cup of my blood)

These are the most powerful words uttered by a priest during Mass as he consecrates the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

When I was a little boy, during mo- ments of quiet, Inay Aurea would pull me aside, make me kneel, close my eyes and recite the sacred host with my head bowed and hands clasped.

INAY Aurea

"That's the body and blood of Jesus Christ...God is here present among us," Inay whispered.

The Holy Eucharist is the first mys- tery of both I truly believe in. I never cease to be amazed that through the daily miracle of Holy Eucharist, bread is transformed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

In 1946, during the Japanese occu- pation, when I was eight, Inay Aurea got married for the second time to Sergio Martin, a widower from Lilia Diaz-Bengzon (I may mild to call him Pa- pa) had seven children...four boys, Carmo (9), Toti (12), Julio (14), Tony (16), Lemuel (18), Baby (19) and An- ting (21). After one year, Inay gave birth to a baby girl, Rosario, my one and only half-sister.

The next years were not only years of living dangerously but also years of insanity of food, clothing and medicines. Our family survived on lu- gaw with tapa, even soups such as flavoring Bagik, flavoring Achuy and gulo (gravy with shredded meat) or ripe jackfruit with salt.

Rosario got her newfound big fami- ly in difficult times. Inay Aurea inti- mated the concept of patience and duty as many times. Food was rarest (re- served) on a plate with equal amount for each of us. No second helpings.

Inay also learned and the concept of duty, which means each of us as- signed to a household task and re- sponsibility. I was in charge of cleaning the room before bedtime. Lemuel of set- ting the table, and Caesar of washing the dishes. The older boys did fam- ily errands.

Inay also taught her young stepchildren to pray the Angelus and the rosary. She insisted that they at- tend Mass on Sundays. Inay's stepchildren became close to her be- cause she sweetened and nurtured them like they were her own.

Painful choices

In 1950, Inay Aurea suffered from an ailment called sciatica, a painful disease involving the sciatic nerve. Severe pains were felt in the lower back and along the back of the thigh. She was bedridden and in pain for a long time. Once recovered, her left leg had become shorter and she walked with a limp, needing to use a cane for support. However, this did not stop her from marketing and taking reg- ular trips to the provinces in pursuit of our regular supply of rice and other food.

In her late 30s, Inay was outright to orphans and raisers from the provinces who came to Manila to study in various colleges—Fores and Cancio from Majayjay, Lourdes and Axel from Ilocos, Estelle and Ching from Bicol.

Inay Aurea was known from my cousin's parents. Her "I'm in charge and you follow house rules" were re- vered when it came to table manners, bedroom orderliness and evening prayers. All six "boarder" cousins are now married and with successful ca- reers. They thank her for her nurtur- ing and convincing ways.

In 1971, Inay underwent a major surgery on her diseased hip bone. When she recovered, she became wheelchair-bound. When she was in her mid-80s, I asked her to stay with us permanently.

"It's good for our children to grow up with a grandmother," my wife, Es- ong, told me.

At home in a big condominium in Greenbelt, Inay Aurea never had her disciplinarian stance. One time she accosted my daughter Claudine's boyfriend, "Hoy bata ka! Pumanaog ka na (take the stairs and go down) at gabi na!"

Inay had to cope with her recurring pain. I would hear her say "Diyos ko po, ai po ko (mostly engraving ain't at ko po." At times, I'd peek in her room and I'd see her praying the rosary.

Alzheimer's

As Mr. Inay showed signs of Alzheimer's disease, from time I would approach her, she gave me that puzzled blank look, indicating the need to introduce myself. "Inay! Ako si Minyong...anak mo!" Still, I would get a blank stare.

At monthly pasuel, she spent most of her time sleeping and forgetting to eat because she had forgotten to feel hungry.

One time I wanted to get her signa- ture for a piece of document. I gave her the pen and pointed the dot for her to sign. With that blank look on her face she did some scribbling on the papers. When she was finished, I looked at what she scribbled.

Horror of horrors! Inay scribbled something that looked like chicken- scratch. Oh my god! Inay Aurea had lost her writing skill! Or did she forget her name? Or both? I was dev- astated.

One sunny day in 1995, when she was five months short of her 90th birthday, Inay Aurea just closed her eyes—Ramona Coalbed for a priest to give her the sacrament of the last anointing.

After several hours, the funeral parlor guys came over. When I saw them taking Inay Aurea's body out of the house, I shouted, "Hoy, saan! Dyan! Lalo ang sasakay sa ganyan!" The Fu- neral guys stopped in the doorway. And then I caught my Inay Aurea. I stood shocked and miserable. I said goodbye and the tears came flowing like a river.

Hindi na ibabalik si Inay Aurea. Even if I sing "Babalik Ka Rin" a thou- sand times. God, she's gone!

E-mail bgm.dones@gmail.com

A new leadership? Whah!

Chit Roces

NOT QUITE THERE

IT TAKES one good man to the presidency to get us at least hoping again...to small triumph in travel. It's been a while since we had someone with the moral ascendancy to lead the fight against the national contagions, corruption and...to roaring complacency, poverty.

The poor themselves may not really recognize their true champion. All those years, after all, they have allowed themselves, for short term gain, to become politicians' tools, even as they actually cried out [illegible] for the genuine. No one has been more successful at making political profit out of one's best—all for popularity.

Need think the detention on charges of high crimes of that very president who purloined him and the impeachment of her—one midnight-appointed chief justice—not to mention...the people-power uprising of Pemilas and Marcos...directors for 14 years, to 1986, and of Yolanda himself, president for two...in 1995...never enough to alive the nation to the likes of them. But...to...they in fact rule us...and not into the unseen riches. And the most conspicuous of them is Estrada...this time meaning for mayor of Manila.

Incredible promise

Looking younger than 75, he has continued to bring better field together by the rejuvenating magic of neon cells. In a TV interview recently, he offered "a new leadership in the city," a promise hardly startling...never mind credible, defending use of his speech. Siam cells apparently failed to correct his dyslexia—like true, which in fact received thicket.

A new leadership! Whah! (as Madame Marcos might herself remark). If Erap were to be a person one grins, I'd myself thought the phrase the punch line, although I wouldn't quite describe which was the funnier word...corn or leadership.

But what is there left for Erap to do after having entrenched his dynasty in San Juan? Run to control in other city as he would another woman? He definitely isn't out of hocks, but all seats are taken in San Juan. Anyway, he seems the type for whom the grass is always greener and the woman contrary on the other side.

But, again, what is it about power that drives men and women to hold on to it even when their term is past, even if the mere essentials of power are all there's left on them? Is it that without power they feel they're nothing?

New fashion

Nevertheless, let's not get downcast. A new fashion has hit town. In our world is dirty linen, and it's being washed in court...in the media and other forums, and elsewhere. In the public wash right now is the Chief Justice's...Most where there's dirt, there are definitely wipes...that seems a promising development for the nation, but not for Estrada, who's not of fashion...the very model of in turn of the second-rumble-stripe, for whom failure, for instance, is a thief trick.

Continued to courage, Estrada looks a prominent electoral parade, driving a customized jeepney, but own Toijan Sarao...is for newly bought house in Binga Bormat, Kamagong...in here the dead line composed of a mayoral candidate to have resided for at least one year in the constituency in which he's running.

It's presidentiary gone political: A faithless man discards San Juan like an old wife and chases after a new prospect.

Will his ilkes, sea gems are in danger of being squandered—gains Like Dir. Intelligent Consuelo Campos-Montano...for Sec Secretary Leila de Lima, Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares, to name a few. We already had a clear happiness at the Comelec—a pity, gauged up on at his 3-mare confirmation hearing, he was given up by the president without a fight.

Noynoy himself isn't perfect, to be sure, but, like his mother, he would seem a genuine democ's child. How else do we explain the presidentwell of support—effective!...I dare say—for Nonoy and Cory's son if we ourselves didn't feel so orphaned as he? He is president because he gave us hope of escape from the scourge of our time—corruption.

That's us...the people...who got another chance at redemption after passing up all other chances by simply standing and waiting to be saved.

For God's sake, be a bridge

Truly, wasn't the Naia episode a textbook case of anger out of control?

Conchita C. Razon

MY CHAIR ROCKS

IF YOU PUT a lid on a pot of boiling water, the water rises to the top, spills all over and makes a mess.

Is that what happens with anger? Water besides have values because we're human), slowly to a controlled boiling. Is that what it means when they say I must vent or I will blow my top?

Anger is an emotion evoked by one's own interpretation of having been wronged or offended. It is often the result of frustrated expectations. Retaliation or revenge is the consuming urge that rises to undo those of losers.

We live stressful lives, most of us. And when there is no balance brought in, as the brain personalizes, we "lose it."

Research shows that some types of food can stoke fits of aggression and anger. Food coloring, especially red; gluten and wheat; sugar and caffeine are held suspect by sugar experts. Strawberries and spicy food are also on their list.

Anger management is a remedy offered for those stressful times. It is a system of psychological exercises and techniques by which someone with uncontrollable anger can be taught to identify and reduce the triggers and intensity of an aggressive emotional condition.

We have seen incidents of road rage. The impatience of motorists cannot be blamed solely on the erratic economy. In some countries, anger management is enforced by the legal system.

It seems that some people we know are in urgent need of immediate attention.

Typical behavior

Recent high profile events have been avidly followed on the social networks. They have made front-page headlines, over and above the price of gas, which in the US a few days ago dipped down a bit, and the impeachment trial which probably has become old hat.

What does one do "in a fit of anger?" Some people flare up and immediately cool down. Others tote close to ruled in spite of cooler heads intervening. What is the type of behavior of an angry person? Most of the time the mouth opens both words that, as the Bible teaches, come "from the abundance of the heart."

If the heart is full of bitterness and hateful emotions, the words that fly out will be likened to cobwebs and lies, like this [illegible] in print. Like they say, "anger is a condition in which the tongue is faster than the mind."

The Naia episode has been discussed ad nauseam and we shall leave that to the pro-nagonists and essays related with. But truly, wasn't that a textbook case of anger out of control?

You may have a right to be angry. But this does not give anyone the right to be cruel.

To quote Benjamin Franklin: "Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame."

When we have been involved in a hurtful situation or an altercation of any kind, we tend to minimize every word, every blow. We want to stay angry. Why can't we just let it go? Some say it makes them feel less vulnerable. Does anger help in any way to clear home a point...whatever that may be? I don't think so. Does it give a statistics sense of power? Perhaps.

Unspoken sorrow

Last week, while thunderstorms and high winds hit Metro Manila (heck, I read Francine Rivers' latest novel, "The Unspoken"—from "a Mother's Day present from my daughter).

It is the romance saga involving four generations of women, from the early 1900s through the turbulent '60s and on to the 2000s. It tells of unspoken sorrow of unresolved anger that ruins a family spirit, of forgiveness and unconditional love.

Interwoven in the story are handwritten letters from Maria, a German immigrant, to her lost friend. She speaks about her daughter Hildemara Rose, a nurse, who is painfully uncertain of her mother's love. Hilde's daughter Carolyn feels rejected in turn by her own mother, and lives with the sense of being sexually abused as a child by a neighbor, terrified by the threat of his return and rejected and by her mother's rants.

There are issues of jealousy, old remembrances that need to be resolved, and hearts that will never heal unless faced squarely and dealt with. Finally May Flower Dawn, a child conceived by Carolyn on Golden Gate Park during the days of the Flower children, decides it is time and has reasons to change the situation.

How many of us still have wounds from

FROM C3

The Onib ties: 'Daddy, bakit ang galing mong gumawa ng pangit?'

Onib, THE PIONEER figurative expressionist at work

Pasensiyahan #3

ing hope and prominent in every living room of our life of many removals are a common reminder of that friendship.

He had not known Onib before he became an artist, but had an idea of his previous, short career as architect, a career that may have seemed promising, judging alone by his seventh place in the licensure tests.

He was one of the four houses Onib had built, that for a brother in a village in Pasay City and housed enough capital to use to rib him for the rest of their days: "Good thing you scrapped building houses. You did it just the way you paint—rob cubing."

There's not sadly his position, his best friend in college, in a thankful Onib's scores entirely—Manolo Emilio Ho the emigrated to the States, and continued building proper houses.

Eggie's Woman

Weigel and Onib met at the weekly Women's Home Companion, founded in 1977 by Weigel's mother Eggie Apostol and Fred Bonoy shortly after their newspaper, the Manila Chronicle, had been closed down by Martial Law. It was a safe enough magazine to publish. Weigel was copy editor, Onib the illustrator.

Every weekday the two would spend their off-hours talking about pretty serious stuff—literature, art, music, the philosophies of life—or playing chess.

"We also chatted and laughed a lot," Weigel, pensive, but they lost track of time going on and on such that Bettina languished in interminable waiting for her pickup in her submissing office.

Weigel had found a kindred spirit in Onib....I close my perhaps the only real one—and could not have honored him more than when he chose him to be godfather to his second child, an only son, Bodi.

Onib cajoled Weigel to draw—they, in fact shared a passion for dinosaurs—and, in Weigel's case, two dinosaurs: The instinct he brings out his developed people undeniably remember appointments in rush to. Done notable to escape have been heard to say, with a pained smile. "Well, what can I do, if that's how I look to you."

Which was sometimes the reaction of some of Onib's subjects, too, the daughter, Bambi, from her father's touch, had asked Onib, "Daddy, bakit ang galing mong gumawa ng pangit?"

Bettina

If only in artistic predispositions, you could say the same with Weigel. Only very severe subjects would be willing to be drawn by him, but the not-so-willing have a little chance to escape either: Trained as a journalist to work under the closure of deadlines, he can do ten in seconds, if that's all the time he has, on sexy papers—table napkins and placemats in restaurants often prove the most handy.

Bettina was a college classmate and friend—I sort of provided some measure of comic counterpoint to her non-one-man-leader reserve. But Onib was no stranger to me either: He was part of the cut pack of artists to which my youngest uncle, writer painter Alfredo Roces, played a key counterpoint. Visual literacy. I would sometimes see the Olondo couple in my paternal grandparents' home in Bel Air on Bautista, Pasay City, where the pads played play as you came. Or brother shoes noisemaker basketball and cracked on Cocoa nuts—pineapple and pollen. Iron (he can't say more next door).

In the early '50s, learning Dutch had suffered a stroke, Weigel went to visit him in his old home to Antipolo. They promised to get together again. And bumping into him and Bettina not long afterward, we invited them home for after dinner drinks.

Sept. 8, 1996

Onib was looking better, in fact back at work, he said. He even asked me to look him his favorite fandan for their next visit. I couldn't have missed the news but Bettina flashed at the memory of Onib—Onib, now pensive and by dangerous for its load of ink. Still I made him the promise, even then already beginning to think of how I would make fandan safe enough for him.

But before his fandan could happen, he died quite unexpectedly—at home, in the early morning of Sept. 8, 1996.

As it happened, Onib left women friends special enough for them to feel themselves widowed—fellow artists, gallery owners, wives of friends. Elida Cordero-Fernando and Odette Alcantara were two I knew better than the others. And I've always wondered how women like these, achievers in their own right, especially in relationships to themselves, could take the loss so singularly as to proclaim themselves "Last Wishes to Onib."

These weeks remember everything about Onib, delighting in the endless retelling of jokes and anecdotes he had told and were told about him.

Weigel and I have become regulars at memorial dinners for Onib with most of the circle and one of Onib's best friends, Manny Antolin (whose own wife, Ping, is an Onib widow) and Alan Cotse, with wife Ivy, in attendance. At one, we held hands in a silent circle after around the dinner table taking turns saying a prayer for Onib. Suddenly, Manny's phone rang, registering a call from my own phone, which could only have called on its own because my hands were engaged, one in fact with one of Manny's own. We all thought it an Onib prank and never did any such thing again.

Onib's stories and pranks were addictive—we'd want more as they were closer. If Philippine history had been written by Onib, we'd certainly have felt better about ourselves.

As a progress during his latest exhibit in Ayala Museum, Bettina asked Weigel to read Onib's documentary were read, didn't get to see his grandchildren. But the memory of the man is in their voice—a legacy in blood.

As for Bettina, who shared his heartand bed, memories will have to suffice: fourth men, I'm told, are irreplaceable to both.

Fashion designer attributes conversion to Sta. Rita de Cascia

WHEN THE FEAST of Sta. Rita de Cascia comes every May 22, expect fashion designer Oskar Peralta to be there at San Agustin Church, attending to the cornicia of the saint, decorating it with red roses for the procession after the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Oskar has been doing this for the past 40 years, since his client Provided Him to say told him about the devotion to Sta. Rita de Cascia in 1972. Oskar didn't know the devotion would change his life.

In the years went by, Oskar found himself growing closer to God. He found his earlier hedonism fast changing, especially when his blood pressure shot up to 170/90 when he turned 50 years old. His friend Eddie Chua drove him to the MAKATI Medical Center emergency room.

Thankful for his having saved, Oskar found himself going to Mass every day and visiting the Blessed Sacrament. He took on the responsibilities of bringing out the "La Pieta" every Good Friday in Lipa.

His late friend Ibrahim Tolentino, who owned the image, was then working in San Francisco as a sailor. When Ibrahim passed away in 1995, Oskar continued to go to Lipa to drive up "La Pieta," prepare the cornicia and bring it out for the Good Friday procession.

Altar of repose

Over the past years, Oskar has been doing the "altar of repose," every Maundy Thursday, of the Sinisiral Altar of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Dao Street, Makati, which is near his earlier.

He has also found himself joining Rebecca Lacsamana's God's Love Catholic Charismatic Community where he found friends who have experienced conversion.

Peralta prays hard that God will release him from attachment to the outer sex. He is working very hard at his conversion.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Barcong

Every Friday, he goes to Quiapo to pay homage to the Black Nazarene.

One of the few fashion designers who continue to maintain a bridal church, Oskar Peralta has not stopped working. He doesn't call it work, but calls it his "passion." He still commute until go back to him, such as Isabelo Carmona, whose daughter Diane wore a wedding dress designed by Oskar; Cecille Montano, Flordee Castillo and Ruby del Rosario.

Peralta, who will turn 70 this December, said he feels very strong and healthy. When he prays, he doesn't ask God for anything, but just says, "Thank you, Lord, for blessing my family for my peace of mind and good health."

Saint of impossible cases

Rita of Cascia (1381-May 22, 1457) was an Italian Augustinian nun. She is now Spoleto, Italy, she was married to an early age to an abusive husband. This marriage lasted 18 years, during which she was a model wife and mother.

When her husband was killed by his enemies, she sought to dissuade her sons from revenge. She subsequently joined an Augustinian community of nuns. She was known for the apparent stillness of her prayers and is venerated for the various miracles attributed to her intercession.

The saint's devotees believe she can help in the reduction of impossible cases. San Agustin Church in Intramuros holds a Novena of Masses that ends May 22. Devotees receive roses, a symbol of the saint's affliction.

OTHER DEVOTIONS

St. Philomena relics

Redemptorists de Santa Philomena in West Holy Redeemer Parish, together with Universal Living Rosary Association of St. Philomena, will celebrate the feast of the Finding of the Holy Relics of St. Philomena May 23. Her relics were discovered in the Catacombs of St. Priscilla in Rome in 1802.

In line with the celebration, the Basilica of Santa Christi Peñafrancia of Christ) will be visiting Sacristies on May 25 for the 6 a.m. Mass, celebrated by Fr. Chel V. Bagabaldo, parish priest.

Public veneration of the holy relics is from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Novena to St. Philomena is at 6 p.m., followed by the 6:30 p.m. Mass to be celebrated by Fr. Michell Jojo S. Zerrudo, spiritual director of Living Rosary.

For more info, visit www.rosaryphilomenaph.wordpress.com/ or call 0908.3470885.

Flores de Maria 2012

The people of San Miguel, Bulacan, have a very special devotion to Mary, whom they call "the Flower of Their Faith."

On May 8-31, the Holy Rosary is prayed at 4 p.m. at Parish of St. Michael, followed by the offering of flowers and singing of "Salve Regina."

Today is the feast of Nuestra Señora de los Flores, which will be celebrated by a Pontifical Mass to be officiated by Archbishop Bishop José Oliveros at 10 a.m.

Interesting regions are Vicky Mendoza, Irene Hontiveros and Cathy Arenas. Mr. Filipinas World 2014 Cristine Gallaneosa will be Reyna de las Flores during the procession and significant at 6 p.m.

Priests mark milestones

Rev. Fr. Troy de los Santos, OSM-Cap, marked 50 years as a Franciscan Capuchin on May 18 with a Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral in Abu Dhabi, where he is based. A former Provincial Minister of the Philippine Province, Father Troy will celebrate his 40 years as a priest on Aug. 16.

Rev. Fr. Ildefonso Aquino will celebrate his 37th year as a priest on May 27 with a Mass at 5 p.m. in Monastery of St. Clare in Naga, Cagayan Valley. May God bless your both with good health and the strength to serve the Lord all the days of your lives.

Padre Pio's birth anniversary

Fr. Jojo Gonda, parish priest of Shrine of St. Padre Pio in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, will hold the blessing of the new adoration chapel in the shrine at 3 p.m. on May 23, the birth anniversary of the saint. Those who wish to help complete the chapel can see Father Jojo at 0917.5272084.

FASHION Designer Oskar Peralta, far left, "La Pieta," owned by the late Rodante Tolentino, is brought to the procession every Good Friday

STA. RITA de Cascia is a saint for impossible cases

THE ZONTA Club of Muntinlupa and Environs (ZCME), in partnership with the city of Muntinlupa, under the stewardship of Mayor Aldrin San Pedro, recently laid the foundation for a new building that will house the club's flagship project, Bagong Buhay Center in Barangay 99 in Putatan, the 24/7 crisis response center is a sanctuary for abused women and children. Above, Bagay president Marcha Nuñez delivers her acceptance speech during the groundbreaking ceremony.

For God's sake, be a bridge

Pasensiyahan #3

a dam-long gone? What are the secrets we hide that are feeling on the insides of our souls? How much longer will they have to the shattered corners of our hearts?

New and clean

I remember as a little girl I have after one of us had been sick, my aunt made us promise by burning dried orange rinds in a censer. She opened all the windows while she poked every nook and corner of every room, under the beds and saved behind the curtains with the heady aromatic smoke.

When she was done, everything smelled new and clean.

Is it time for "burning cleansing" in your life?

Why do we allow the diamond parts of our life to sink up our attitude and our disposition? Why not bring the sweet-smelling aroma of forgiveness back into our lives?

It is not easy to forgive. It is easier to bear a grudge. It keeps us on guard. One would rather feel the offense and plan revenge. But they do say that the best revenge is forgiveness; that whatever seeks revenge should dig two graves.

Maya Angelou says this: "We cannot change the past. But we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness. Bear not a regret and tend the reality. Exchange love for hate, thereby making the present comfortable and the future promising."

Let us not hold more walls than the world has already set up separating people, destroying families. We have become individuals in the sight of man joined one against the other.

I dare you to be an agent of change. Become a bridge builder. Throw away your differences, no limits. Together let us mend fences. Let us not bring more anger to an already angry world.

Bring peace. Do not be content with just looking at your fellowman from a distance. Do not be a wall between brothers. For God's sake, be a bridge.

Returning home—coming full circle—is my Ascension

By Fr. Tito Caluag
Contributor

IN HIS 1949 classic book, "The Hero with a Thousand Faces," Joseph Campbell talks about the final stage of a hero's journey, the return to his home.

Campbell describes three stages in the journey: leaving home, the transformation and returning home. The hero's journey, Campbell claims, is the one mythic story that is repeated across cultures and generations. "The Odyssey" King Arthur's legend, "Huckleberry Finn," "Star Wars," "The Lord of the Rings," "The Matrix," Buddha and Jesus Christ.

Campbell says that in this final stage the hero returns home, but an ILLEdan return is no other than the place he first came." It is at this stage that the hero becomes the master of two worlds, the world through which he journeyed and the world of his home to which he returns.

In Campbell's framework, today's feast, the Ascension of Christ, is Christ's homecoming. He is now the master of two worlds, heaven and earth.

While Christ follows the same journey of Campbell's overarching story, there is a key difference from all other stories. In the other stories, the hero journeys from home, here on earth, and the journey takes him to another world and brings him back home to his earthly existence. For Christ home is in heaven, the eternal Kingdom. His journey is from eternity to the temporal world, a world of history and it gives our temporal existence an eternal value.

Furthermore, in Christ's story the Ascension, the return home, is fulfilled by the sending of the spirit, Pentecost. It is the spirit of the Risen Lord being fully alive in our midst now and it is the spirit that is with us and guides us until he comes again in glory for all those are for another reflection. Let us focus on the Ascension.

Coming full circle and knowing where we started for the first time. Tracing our roots and understanding it more deeply who we are, and what our mission is.

Let me share my story of "ascension." I have shared this in a previous reflection, but let me reflect on it again from the perspective of the ascension. I hope this will help you reflect on your own journey and story.

Sense of mission

My own sense of mission began in 1986. For years I struggled with the burden of coming from a broken, dysfunctional family. It was when I started teaching that I realized the purpose of all this. Among junior high school students, second to eight graders I had a class of 42 (I so would be somewhat frustrated by the same struggle.

Then I understood how my "wounded-ness" could serve as source of my mission, to help young people heal their similar wounds. I found purpose in my own mission. It was then I made the offering and commitment to teaching.

In discovering the mission I also discovered then and more so through the years who I am.

For a few years…came of the happiest in my life—I enjoyed a peaceful, joyful life of teaching. I was completely able to do this for the rest of my life. At one point, it was even clear to me that my future partner and family will have to embrace this mission of teaching and do life that comes with it.

At the same time, the call to journey, the call to priesthood was a nagging question. When I first gave in to the call and went through the application process, half-heartedly, I must confess, the Jesuits told me they needed to know my mind before accepting me. I was not of the happiest experience. I had, joyful that I could continue to teach.

Then almost five years later, as I was turning 34, I decided I had to put it to rest. Try it one more time. If it works, it works. If it doesn't, at least there would be no what-ifs later on.

I left home; not so much the physical home, but the home of my heart and soul—teaching. I spent years in formation and studies pursuing what I thought might be my calling. I still had hoped and feared I rediscovered the choice that I would go back to teaching as my specialty at work. But journeys are not that simple.

For years I was obedient to the call of the journey. I testified to be an administrator and convinced myself that it was the right thing to do. Was it? Only God knows. But I learned my years as principal and—I am discovering more and more—the students, teachers, and parents who believed in the kind of school and education I was advocating also loved our years together.

So the journey took a turn. I was taken out of what was the closest I could get to teaching. I said "yes" with the faith and conviction that my moving on the job I was asked to do was good for the school and its mission. Now, many of you there.

I rolled up my sleeves and buckled down to work, setting a timeframe, targets, deliverables. Eventually the deadlines became "moving targets" as people sat on decisions and we missed deadlines. We adjusted. The goal and the mission were too important to be gone.

As all this was going on, I continued to discern and struggle; it was between doing something important and doing something that was at the core of my identity and mission. The struggle, the tension was between two goods in search of what would be the greater good. What is God's will?

Transformation

There were three moments of transformation in my journey. The 2003 Holy Week retreat helped me reclaim my story and gave me a renewed integration. My Christmas 2004 recollection put closure to my final job at Ateneo; standing before God in the silence of solitude and prayer I was honestly able to say to him, "Lord, you know I did my best doing this job. Time for me to go and move on—as more luck—to what is closest to my heart, and soul." These last two moments in Xavier.

The final moment was in the morning of May 7, 2005, a Saturday, my late father's birthday. I was with my spiritual director, the late Fr. Benny Calporcos, SJ, and he was "pulling" me about my desire to work with teachers from the public schools. Then midway through the conversation he asked, "What good would your teacher formation work do considering how overwhelming the problems are in the public school system?"

Very calmly I responded, "Father, I strongly believe that until it is done to me that if I form even just one good teacher every year for the next 25 years of my active life, I will be doing God's mission for me."

He gave me his thanks Fr. Benny stare and said, "Tito! The movements are very clear that God wants you to do this as God."

In this day I clearly remember the feeling as that moment. I felt warmth in my body, a sense of relief and a sense of uniform, as if a part of me had died. In this morning, paradoxical was I felt a very quiet, simple yet deep sense of freedom. Relief and freedom because I knew that this is indeed God's call I am pursuing. Sadness because one could not simply walk away from a major part of my life [close to 40 years]—I studied at Ateneo for 16 years, starting 1964, worked there as a high school teacher for three years, lived there from 1985-2005, save for years that I worked at Ateneo de Zamboanga and studied at Southern University and Camiguin University. It was a home that I loved dearly. But it was time to leave and continue my journey.

Home

July 2008 I was granted a leave of absence and a year later I formally asked to be dismissed from the Society of Jesus; September 2009 my decree of dismissal was issued, which I signed Sept. 11, 2009.

I returned "home" and again pursued what I had discerned was my mission…to work as a teacher, work with public school teachers. It was not easy, but I was determined…perhaps…somehow had to suffer, to sacrifice in the journey to pursue one's dream and to follow God's call.

Returning home…coming full circle—was my ascension. In teaching I returned with the dream that returning more exciting environments in schools, one public schools, is a way of making our world a bit better, bringing it closer to "the new heavens and the new earth."

Do we also become masters of two worlds? I don't know. But we do become a greater witness to the imperfect temporal world and, infused with meaning and a sense of mission, a hint at the threshold of eternity. This is the guarantee of the Lord's Ascension—"What we have done will not be lost to all eternity. Everything repents and bears fruit in its own hour."—The Remembering (Castles," by Rainer Maria Rilke.

I have gone back to my original love—teaching and teaching others how to teach

An important turning point in Anne Curtis' life

DailyBuchi Tarot

LOVE HOROSCOPE

Anne Curtis

DURING THE next 12 months, Anne will enter a more serious and possibly even frustrating professional cycle in her life due to the powerful movement of Saturn. This could influence an important turning point in her career. A favorable Jupiter transit from June 2013 is an excellent omen for her personal and romantic relationships.

Aries

A romance with someone younger or less mature is likely to dominate your personal landscape. Although this may be fun, you realize that the long-term viability of this friendship has very little going for it.

Taurus

There are ways and means of accessing information especially if you are feeling jealous or suspicious about someone's behavior. This week you may need to let someone over the head with a sledgehammer to get to the truth.

Gemini

Showing enough interest in a loved one, lately? Transform your relationship now by forgetting about your own problems, especially if they are not serious. This is a reliable way of overcoming your blue moods.

Cancer

It's a hard call when pressured or cornered. You'll be asked to help out a family member in a spot of emotional difficulty. You'll spend valuable time you don't have and if you've done so before without appreciation, this could become complicated.

Leo

Parents outside your control seem to be determining some of the events of your love life, and this will make you feel uncomfortable because you'd like to have a say in where your life is going.

Virgo

The art of surrender will be part of your life lesson now. Unpleasant karma has to be digested with equanimity. Don't let past relationships bother you and keep dragging you back in the old times.

Libra

You have to be cleverer in coming that extra praise you desire. Providing support on domestic activities will be a potential source of goodwill by family members. The period is excellent for romantic activities.

Scorpio

The call you're being waiting for may finally arrive, so don't get too strung out on her/him you've been hanging. The universe will provide a way out of your emotional dilemma.

Sagittarius

There's no point worrying about someone if you detect that something is wrong. It's not a bad idea to broach this issue when you come face to face with this individual shortly.

Capricorn

You need to stop turning a blind eye to a friend or partner's abuse of your feelings. Put your foot down if you feel you are being used, as an unpleasant showdown may be imminent.

ANNE Curtis

Aquarius

You don't necessarily have to achieve your good qualities, although you could be forgiven for feeling that someone has overlooked the goodwill you have fostered. It's nice to be appreciated, but never ingratiate yourself or you will lose respect.

Pisces

Your imagination may run away with you especially if you are pursuing someone on a pedestal. You can likely do this for only a short time before you learn something about a person that was not initially obvious.

Your 'karma'—Q&A

Will I ever find true love? I see lovers under the sign of Cancer.

Your horoscope shows me that you find change, and this is your main obstacle. You may need to explore new avenues of social interaction for two more years until an excellent prospect comes your way. This will be due to the contact of Jupiter with Venus. At this time you should wait to enjoy your dream of true love. Good luck!

Gadbuchi Tarot is an avocator of www.astrology.com.ph. E-mail him at: dailbuchi@astrology.com.ph

'Beach party' ballroom dancing at Jade Vine

SM LADIES' FASHION SIGNS UP FOR MISS WORLD

SM Ladies Fashion Management Corp. (LFMC) recently formalized its sponsorship of the 2013 Miss World Philippines Pageant. Under the agreement, brands Cara Cabada, Elements and Pazzo will be providing the swimsuits, resort and casual wear for the contestants. Present in the contract signing were LFMC division head for ladies wear Noemi Aquino; LFMC division head for resort wear Flo Abad; ALV Events international president Arnold Vegafria; Miss World Philippines chair and CEO Cory Quirino; LFMC vice president Charlene Blanche Yu-Bansal; and LFMC ad and promo manager Jose Bautista.

JADE VINE Restaurant will hold a ballroom dancing event today (May 26, 7 p.m.-12 mid-night). The dancing is a summer beach party. Guests will come in shorts adorned in wrap-around skirts to participate in the Mr. Mayflower competition. Tickets are at P400 each, with dinner. Call Gloria, Denise or Bernie at 5248810-01. Jade Vine Restaurant is on Ayala Avenue corner J. Rizal St., Makati.

Mag holds TV reality show

MEG magazine is revamping its image and content, and launching its online lifestyle portal ten4ATE.ph. It will also host "I Am Meg: Dad the World to Style," a TV reality show that will look for two young women who become interactive intelligence, entertainment and confidence. The show will bring together young Filipino women who could face up to the show's challenges and emerge as the ultimate "it" girl. Auditions will be held on May 26-27, at SM Megamall A Events Center, 4 to 9 p.m. Teens between 16 and 18 are invited. Visit www.ianmeg.ph, www.facebook.com/megmagazine, www.twitter.com/megmagazine.

Boracay PubCrawl promo

Feeling like a stranger on the island? Boracay PubCrawl will guide you through the hottest bars and clubs in Boracay, and let you make new friends. Join the party group and avail free beer/shots at night, get 10 free drinks, plus a free bar P100 deal on selected drinks; get free Boracay PubCrawl T-shirt. The first 50 participants and shot glass; join a fun Can-To-Know Games. Regular fee is P800 per person, ongoing promo price is at P688 for women, and P750 for men. The PubCrawl is on every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit http://www.boracay-pubcrawl.com

BLUEWATER DAY SPA OPENS IN CORAL ATO CITY

BlueWater Day Spa has opened its sixth branch in Casuarina Day 2.0F, Building 1, Aloe Connecticut Complex, Ninoy Aquino Avenue Koronadal, Koronadal City, Soccsksargen province. Services such as infants massage, pregnancy massage, facials, Hilot and Ashiatsu Massage, facial treatments such as the Bambella. In the formal opening are: Aldubbie Nel, Judge Ibrahim Barcenas, Gov. Graham Nazar Dumarina, Vice Governor Shirlyn Hut, Mayor Dan Espuelas, Councilors, Marivic Hut, Nonoy Espuelas, Kiko Ramirez and owner Maria Bacon. Call 0917-8511884

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SMART
LIVE MORE

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Cooly bearing the heat of summer

THE HEAT is on and nothing can stop temperatures from rising. My wardrobe is, if not bare (as skirts, let's do it with style!

There's an even stylish eyewear to take under the sun, but sun shades. Oakley. The glass eyepieces showed off remarkable innovation and revolutionary fashion at a recent ad.

CODEX ES

TESSA! *Tessa Prieto-Valdes*

The 'miracle child' –one of the country's richest heiresses—finds her life partner

Sasha Elizalde-Del Rosario has been through a lot—liver-cancer survivor at 18 months, losing her mother at 17, coming into great inheritance in her teens. Now 27, she talks about a life that has gone downstream and upstream

Shakey's®

Mother's Day Getaway

When you order 2 pitchers of any Coca-Cola product plus P1,000 minimum food purchase, you earn a raffle coupon that gives you a chance to be one of the 6 winners* of a 3 day/2 night Hong Kong trip for 2 with P50,000 shopping money. There will be *2 winners each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Just our way of celebrating fun, family, pizza this Mothers' Day!

Enjoy Coca-Cola

For DTI-NCR Permit No. 3007, Series of 2012. Promo runs from May 11-31, 2012. This is for Dine-in and Carry-Out transactions only. Not valid for other promotions or discounts.

BIGGIES World Manila president Kingson Sian, Oakley Philippines CEO Ramesh Dargani, Resorts World Manila executive vice president Steve Bailey, Resorts World Manila vice president of Marketing Communication Martin Pia

VERA, Savannah and Coco Maxwell with Geeta Dargani

HIKE de Jesus, Gloria Diaz, Geeta Dargani, Oakley Philippines CEO Ramesh Dargani, CATS Motors Inc. president Felix Ang and wife Grace Ang

Cooly bearing the heat of summer

From page B1

DIRECTOR of Operations for Sunglass Hut Ruth Enriquez, Oakley endorser Chariene Olcampo

LOVELY mom Carol Ily and daughter Carissa

SWIM coach Sue Concepcion with kids, Pete triathlete Tricia Chongkian-Concepcion, Oakley Philippines CEO Ramesh Dargani, Lara Parpan

BAMBI! Bata Board Baju Lazard with Marbris Zubiri

LUCY Torres-Gomez

PRETTY GIRLS, Erin Domingo Chua-Ocampo Lantion and Juliana Torres Gomez at Manly Strip

COOL moms and daughters: Tessa and Annika Valdes, and Jenni and Aryanna Esperanza

NICE FAMILY Terrence Chan, Peggy Ty Chan and daughter Isabelle Lois Ty

BAJO Lazard, Carlo Ramirez, Manny Padilla, Anthoni Romero, Randy Ortiz, Rhett Eala

DUST Thani Manila GM Prateek Kumar with lovely wife Yvonne and baby Jia

Hair is showcase their latest technologies.

Interactive booths allowed guests to get into the details of the products' high-definition specs, while the area of the tech-challenged, like me, just enjoyed the different styles. Unfortunately I couldn't distinguish between polarized, hydrophobic and photochromic, but I do know what looks good and what doesn't.

Oakley has moved beyond eyewear. A conveyer belt stamped up the volume on their surf and golf wear.

My son Tyrone says the Blades I found there are awesome. He uses them as the newly opened Republik Wakeboard Park in Nasugbu, where he recently became annual member #002. The O Ferrari bikini with a bra-top swatch gives great movement and minimum chafing.

Oakley golf apparel is more up the alley of my hubby Dennis. Their golf shoe features HandSpike technology providing superior traction for better durability, best movement and reduced heat retention.

All-Filipino company

Hour was on everyone's minds at the 25th anniversary of Concepcion Industries. The extraordinary of Concepcion Industries (four decades!) are veteran entrants and trustees. The all-Filipino company is a shining testament to Pinoy design and ingenuity, beating globally renowned brands as it made its way to market leadership.

Bernina Hechanova, Concepcion's vice chair, attributed the company's success to the family's hands-on involvement, attention to detail, and passion for excellence. She introduced the company's new logo, hailing it as a fireworks, luminary design. But still keeps its links to the brand's rich heritage while keeping the strong, bold and modern elements that characterize Condura.

Dan Concepcion, Concepcion's president, spoke of the company's two most recent acquisitions. He also introduced two all-new lines of refrigerators—the fifth generation Condura Negrapro series and the Negrapro style series, both designed specifically for those who want to stay their refrigerators for business and still have a great-looking home appliance.

The most spacious in the market, the Condura Negrapro Refrigerators boast up to three times more freezer space, twice more shelfine space, and 14 different storage combinations!

Powered by a Negrapro compressor, the appliances are low on electricity consumption. The Condura Negrapro Refrigerators are up to 10% greener, more energy efficient than other in-Food household refrigerators. Check www.condura.com for details.

Absolute mains

The best way to stay cool in this heat is with a bottle of water. And lots of it was available at the Absolute Distilled Drinking Water's recent event at M Café, shamelessly inspiring Means for Others Awards.

I was thrilled to be chosen as an awardee of the fabulously inspiring Means for Others. It was great to be with other cool members, all rewarding them help to those who are most in need, and making a difference to support a cause.

Absolute Water endorser Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo looked ultra-slim as she handed out our awards, together with Rhea de los Angeles, Cathy Bobao, Patricia Hizon and Pia Magdaluyo. Absolute also gave a donation to Assumption Sr. Sr. Purificadora, and my classmates Pepsi Gamboa and Girlie Sicam were present to receive the check.

Mother for Others

Coincidentally there was another Mothers for Others event, with Bataan Bata-owned Marikina Bata Board Baju Lazard Mothers for Others fashion show at the Dusit Thani Hotel. I was delighted to host the event, made extra special this year because my youngest, Athena, agreed to join the fashion show.

Like the rest of the proud moms, I felt my daughter looked so pretty in a Gary Santiago creation walking down the ramp with Adriana Zubiri, scientist daughter of Miguel and Audrey Zubiri.

All the kids looked wonderful wearing ensembles by top designers like Jimo Soho, Pepito Albert, Inchuki Serrao, Patrick Ramos-Diaz, Rhett Eala, Jun Escario, Cesar Gaspar, Bernito Lantion, Bobby Cortez and Raju Lazard.

The successful benefit event was due to the unwavering dedication of the Bataan Bata Advisory Board members, namely Lizzi Chua, Jackie Ubalfino Reyes, Darwin Zubiriro Lag-Brimo, Raju Lazard, Ramon Medrod Po, Manny Padilla, Carla Ramirez, Kane Braga and Audrey Tan Zubiri.

With generous sponsors like Megaworld and Dusit Thani Hotel, Bataan Bata raised funds for many pediatric wards patients. Mothers also got special surprises from Ding Yi/TT and Villa del Conte Chocolates. Special thanks goes to Robert Blancaflor for the remarkable floral arrangements.

A special edition of Lituriya Asia, with the Bataan Bata feature on the cover, was given to all the guests. Fanatic photogenic, the treasured book took him fly pursuits during the affair and photo prints were given. Thanks to the generosity of Canon, it was a perfect gift to all the motivation there.

At the Dusit Thani feast, kids enjoyed the Body Perks' bonbon. Magnum ice cream was also available for everyone. Pediatrician Kumar, Dusit Thani Manila GM, welcomed all the families and invited them to enjoy the delicious Gourmet Buffet brunch with all the signature dishes from the hotel's different restaurants. While all the cool moms and cool-cool supporters, Mothers for Others was a smashing success!

Lady Gaga

The temperature will surely be sizzling for the next few nights in Manila or, of course, everyone knows Lady Gaga is performing at the brand new The Arena at the SM Mall of Asia. Thanks to my good friend Carol Ily, Bubby Dacasin and I were able to score tickets and will be among the throngs enjoying her concert.

Lady Gaga's concert was cancelled in Jakarta, and its fervid, almost under 18 were barred from entry. I guess this is more proof that when it comes to concerts, it is more fun in the Philippines!

Follow Issa on Twitter @issalustre, or e-mail her at avapetrosa@inquirer.com.ph

OAKLEY sports and active lifestyle apparel line and eyewear were showcased at the finale.

THE COMEBACK Negrapro Style is dragon-red rendered the loudest appliances.

CONCEPCION Industries chair Raul Concepcion, vice chair Hechanova Concepcion and Condura president and CEO Tee Concepcion

CONDURA Vice chair Bernina Hechanova-Angeles with Dr. Vicki Belo

IMAGE #1 Boys Night Out (By Sam Dagna aka Sam YG and Eric Vigoa aka Slick Rick (right)) with running coach Nic dela Cruz

RUNNING coach Nic dela Cruz with Bataan Heads Wakefield

PRETTY girls Cary Santiago—Athena Valdes and Adriana Zubiri

GIRLINGS Holy Hechanova and Jose Concepcion Jr.

TEN CONCEPCION is flanked by Stephanie Zubiri of Olivz Magazine and Vinley de Leon of Philippine Tatler

ABSOLUTE Water's inspiring Means for Others: Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo, Sam Pinto and Pia Magalona, Rhea de los Angeles, Patricia Hizon and Cathy Bobao

SEXY Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo with Assumption HS '91 Foundation girls Sue Princess, Mayie Gamboa and Girlie Sicam

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Cebu as world center of fine furniture

CEBU IS in the world map as an important center of finely made furniture. One of its innovative exponents is Heritage Mueblos Mirabilis Export in Inayawan, Lapu-Lapu City.

This is a five-hectare realm where Charles U. Lim and Sandrine Sarrelle Lim have their home, a school, a factory and an extensive display area. To celebrate the firm's 11th anniversary they held the unveiling of their latest collection.

Guest of honor to cut the ribbon was Cebu Gov. Hresmildeyn Garcia and Hiyasly scion Rosalind Sala. They complimented the Lim couple for the furniture's elegant lines, functionality and light mood, good for indoors as well as outdoors.

It is not just tables, chairs, and all manner of seats, but also a whole gamut of accessories. Among the admiring crowd were Kevin Bajaten and Bunny Loop who had helped organize the event; Joe Benin who won one of the chairs raffled off; and Cebu fashion czar Philip Rodriguez who had passed with the fashions for the glamorous plunge.

Also present were architect Jose Mari Cuttaran, with wife Marilou and interior designer Christabelle Marie Ligaya Duran Ledesma, who found something for her new town house; Maybelline Ty, who came from North Carolina; Lou Lou Jarque and Ann Chiaseco; Shalou Hayden; and Loretta Byrnes, complimented for the great buffet spread by Creative Cuisine.

10 years of married life

Rolando "Sonny" Espina and his wife of 40 years, Mila Castillo Espina, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary a full year ahead. There was a solemn mass at the St. Euskal chapel in the Basak, Pardo, campus of the University of San Agustin.

"They prepared everything," said Mila, who joined the university as an dean of Arts and Sciences in 1966. Espina received a leather tabaxie as the unwanted, with quite a dose of good humor. See and Sonny's love story.

They met in March 1960 in Manila at, of all places, a wake for Sonny's uncle. Elvis Presley was Mila's idol at the time. Sonny looked, sang and played the guitar just like Elvis. By July they were "steadies."

The love story evolved through the next three years. Mila taught at various schools in Manila. Sonny had a good job and studied in the evenings. When he graduated in March 1963 he was offered a job in a B-nanzer marketing firm in Cebu. They wed. A little as soon as possible.

Their world-renowned tie dealer Annemarie told Mila she'd lose Sonny as "Cebu has many pretty girls." On the other hand, a well-meaning mentor advised, "Have a secret wedding."

Marking their golden wedding anniversaries are Rolando Espina and Mila Castillo Espina, and Silvestre and Raddie (nee Goopio) Calomarde

On April 22, 1963 they back off to Boracay for a civil wedding. Next day April 23 at 5 p.m., hours before Sonny's flight to Cebu, they were married secretly at the Lourdes Parish in Quezon City that friends Prospero and Linda Jacobs were witnesses.

They parted ways, and just to the song

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The 'miracle child'—one of the country's richest heiresses—finds her life partner

NEWLYWEDS ROBERT Raymond "Rey" Bernal del Rosario and Thalassa "Sasha" Gotiio Elizalde-del Rosario

THE NEWLYWEDS with the bride's grandmother Adela Gotiio Sales Gotiio

THE COUPLE with parents Lisa and Fred Elizalde, Melissa and Bobby del Rosario

THE NEWLYWEDS with the Del Rosario family

LISA Maraja Elizalde with Alfredo and her Maserati and Switzerland Pikes

WEDDING cake shows the groom's love of polo ponies

By Margie C. Enriquez
Contributor

THE LATE Thalassa "Sasha" Gotiio Elizalde Del Rosario is born [illegible] Sticks is an heiress twice over, being the child of Jerusalem-ing magnate Fred J. Elizalde I's eight children and the sole inheritor of her maternal grandmother, Adela Gotiio de Sales Gotiio.

Moreover, she recently married Robert Raymond "Rey" Bernal del Rosario, president of Mollers Investment Inc. and son of Fabrinag magnate Roberto N. del Rosario.

"Sasha doesn't need to work. But she does, which is admirable," said outspoken and hellwise Lisa Maraja-Elizalde.

Turning 27 this July, Sasha is at an age when she faces more responsibilities in her career and a new family life. Fred has plans to make her one of the heads of Manu-la Broadcasting Company, the old-era radio company in the country.

"Sasha" Adela had bequeathed properties to her, being her only direct descendant after the death of Sasha's mother, Jose Gotiio, in 1996. Since she was still a minor then, her father was named administrator of her inherited estate.

"Several years ago, she [Adela] dropped everything onto my plate. My main focus of work are our real estate properties in Batangas and Metro Manila," said Sasha.

Super-cool woman

Adela hails from Lipa, Batangas. When her brothers were killed in World War II, and after her mother died, she took over the family sugar and tobacco business.

"She turned their farming base into into one of the biggest in the hacienda of the sugar industry of Lipa," said Sasha.

"At 91, she is still very active. Headed, as I call her, sister she doesn't like being called grandma, is one tough yet super cool woman. She loves to talk about what a real life during Danger-Saving her [sic]. We have a very strong relationship. She loves keeping up-to-date with everything about my life."

Sasha never imagined that she would one day be running her own business, the YGS Group of Companies which she acquired from Adela.

"With all the new developments in real estate, you always have to be on your toes. It's quite a fun paced and challenging job for something that one might expect to be boring," she said.

She describes the course of her life thus far as initially going downstream with a strong rush. "Through time, events began flowing upstream with gentler currents and, eventually, a smaller flow.

Survivor

The downstream years were her childhood.

At barely 18 months old, she was diagnosed with liver cancer.

Fred and Sasha's mother, former beauty queen Joan, took her to Pittsburgh Children's Hospital in Pennsylvania. She was their liver transplant pioneer. Dr. Thomas Starzl of the University of Pittsburgh took the risk of operating on the infant Sasha. She underwent a series of chemotherapy sessions until her tumor was taking massive shrinkage to permit her parents' immune systems and reduce the risk of organ rejection.

"Sasha is a miracle child," said Lisa.

Sasha became Fred's stepchild when Fred had an affair with Joan. Fred divorced Lisa to marry Joan. Lisa had married Fred's brother Ramon Jr. but left him for Fred.

Sasha became Fred's stepchild when Fred had an affair with Joan. Fred divorced Lisa to marry Joan. Lisa had married Fred's brother Ramon Jr. but left him for Fred.

Through those travails, Sasha lived normally.

She has fond memories of Joan, whom she considers one of the most influential persons in her life, aside from Fred. Whenever Joan would bring her to her classes at International School of Manila (ISM), everyone's face lit up; such was her mother's charm.

"My mom raised me throughout my influential years—six months, etiquette, essential life lessons, and a whole lot more. A lot of who and what I am today is because of her," said Sasha.

However, the "sweet" and sassy years were left behind previously. "First, my mother's passing. I was quite young, and desperately needed my mother to continue guiding me into the rough terrain of life that I was about to enter. Second, a new mother and family were being introduced to my life. It was a complete surprise to me, and it took a lot of getting used to in such a short time."

Trying teen years

In May 1996, Joan died when Sasha was barely 13. Friends and family spent a lot of time with Sasha as they overcame the grief.

"I definitely would not have done it alone," she said.

In 1997, a whirlwind courtship between Fred and Lisa was followed by a grand wedding where Sasha was a bridesmaid. Sasha said Lisa had already known each other through Joan, who was a patroness of Ballet Manila. Joan brought Sasha to meet Lisa after a performance at Manila Polo Club.

On Fred and Lisa's honeymoon to Egypt, Sasha and a gaggle of close friends and relatives came along.

In the family home in Nasay, Lisa became an instant parent. She had to be patient with Sasha's adolescent moods, attended parent-teacher conferences in her school, looked for math tutors and even as alternative school when she didn't pass her math subjects.

Sasha's first job at 22 was as production assistant for Ballet Manila.

"She was more like a younger sister," said Lisa, whose stepdaughter calls her by her first name.

One day, Lisa got a surprise call from ISM. It was about the letters she allegedly signed, asking Sasha to be exempted from swimming class. It turned out Sasha had been forging her stepmother's signature.

Instead of feeling angry, she empathized with Sasha who suffered discomfort when she had to change clothes in front of people. Sasha felt self-conscious about the scars from her liver transplant. Diplomatically, Lisa explained to Sasha that her essay was still the best policy.

On her father

After graduating from ISM, Sasha studied at De La Salle University, where she pursued her undergraduate degree at University of Berkeley, California.

After school, she worked for the different MBC radio stations. Just as Fred worked in the different businesses of his father, "don" Manolo Elizalde, Sasha was being groomed for top management.

Sasha described her father as "one of a kind, a great businessman, an incredibly kind soul, a genius."

Opening up with him was like being in a different world. "It's really hard to put into words. Every day as a child or teenager, and until now, it feels as though I'm living in a Cirque du Soleil show or an encyclopedia.

"He's taught me so much. But the most valuable lessons are to work hard; strive for success; treat everyone properly (employees, associates, attendants, family) and lastly: Never forget that what you are or what you have you couldn't have accomplished without the help of others. Don't neglect those who have helped you."

Hence, her emotional intelligence has been one of her strengths.

"When you meet Sasha, she will strike you as shy. But deep inside, she observes. She is very perceptive

—SEE PHOTO ALBUM

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My best friend's wedding

By Charlene Cassimiro
Contributor

SASHA Elizalde is maid of honor at friend Charlene Cassimiro's wedding.

LAST APRIL 20, my dear friend, Thalassa Mary Sasha Emilia Elizalde, daughter of Fred J. Elizalde and the late Joan Cecilia, decided to make it official. She exchanged vows with Robert Sigmund del Rosario in a charming ceremony at San Sebastian Church in Manila.

The church was a sea of lavender and white flowers that late Friday afternoon.

Sasha, as she is known to friends and family, met Boy (Sigmund) in middle school at the International School of Manila. Theirs was a romantic relationship that did not blossom until later. The two were good friends who reconnected years after high school while they were enrolled in universities in California and Sasha reminded in the Philippines. Theirs was a long, distance affair.

Having known the bride for 20+ years and having been there to share almost every milestone in her life, I was still surprised when Sasha asked me to be her maid-of-honor, although (only he told, we had branched the idea to each other since we were 16.

Today, 13 years later, fast-forward to the wedding ceremony, my mind flashed back to the times we were playing with Barbies, or singing up pure our bedtime drinking non-beer floats, or inside-rolling and diving members of our crushes.

We are far removed from those days now (sort of), and there I was relishing the moment—my best friend's wedding.

There she was, gliding on the aisle in an elegant floor-length gown, with hints of lace around her shoulders, reminiscent of a Grace Kelly gown. I fought to hold back the tears (my mascara was not waterproof).

The man she had chosen to be her life partner stood before the altar, with his best man and brother, Dred del Rosario.

A most touching moment was when the bride's father, Fred J. Elizalde, with Sasha's grandmother, Adela Salas Cecilio, gave the bride away. The sight left the 300 or so guests teary-eyed.

The principal sponsors were: Anita de Dream and Chris Cano; Pamela Dalupan and Boy Ignacio; Tess Herrera and Hanie Aguila; Philip Zeller and Monica Custodio; Bella Laurel and Pamela Laurel; Amelia Fuentes and Justice Hermenegildo Reyes; Nikki Cuenco and Justice Artemio Reyes; Sen. Miriam Santiago and Sen. Ralph Recto; Sen. Loren Legarda and Sen. Manny Villar; and William H. Depas.

After the ceremony, the newlyweds rode away in the Elizalde's classic 1954 Silver Dawn Rolls Royce. It is said that this was the same car the Beatles rode during their brief visit here in the '60s.

In the reception at The Navyard Manor Mansion were 300 guests. Gia Maraja Ambrosio, the younger sister of Sasha's stepmom, the great Emilenita Lim Maraja Elizalde, sang a most romantic "Moon River." Gia's husband, Robert Atchison, accompanied her on the violin. Lisa and her mother Imelda Maraja were tending up as they listened to Gia.

For the couple's first dance, the groom's father, Bobby del Rosario, led his band, "A Special Someone."

The reception bore a familiar and intimate touch, with the closest friends of the couple playing emcees.

Marquis de Penn prepared the five-course meal. The wedding cake was a feast for the eyes, designed by Marie's Cakes. The five-tier chocolate cake showed Boy's affinity to polo horses. The couple's two Australian Shepherds also had their likeness atop the cake.

What I loved most were the speeches, from the poignant one of acquisition Lisa (a flower of the groom's parents), Bobby and Mahrer del Rosario, to that of the bride's cousin Anne Elizalde, and brother Jean Elizalde—the toasts were incredibly touching and funny.

It was an evening to remember and cherish; it was a beginning for Sasha and Boy. A quote I meant to share with them that evening, but failed, goes: "A successful marriage is basically an endless cycle of wrongs committed, apologies offered, and forgiveness granted ... all leavened by the occasional orgasm." —Dan Savage

And so, I did not outdo the bouquet.

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The 'miracle child' . . .

From page B4

and responsive to other people," said Lisa.

She also pointed out, "Sasha can also sleep everything else and he only supports two of Ray."

Perfect match

For Sasha, the turning point was finding the perfect match. She and Ray del Rosario had known each other since eighth grade in 1986.

"I've had a crush on him, but I just never entertained the thought because I don't about our friendship so much," she said.

They had lost touch with each other as are high school but were reconnected through Facebook.

In 2009, Ray was on a holiday from Prepaedme University in Malibu, California. They were once his coffee in the Mall of Asia to catch up.

"Little did we know that sparks would fly between us and that it would lead to romantic dates," she said. Among their were Ray's polo games.

Sasha planned to spend only a month in California to visit Ray, but her stay was extended. She was with him during his junior and senior years at Pepperdine with trips to Manila in between. Sasha became domesticated and learned how to cook.

When Sasha came home, she and Ray had a spat on Skype. Lisa advised her to break things out with him. It was then that Sasha took the next plane to the US.

"My adult life is a product of her (Lisa's) coaching and support. She has taught me to go for what I believe in or go for what I feel is the right thing to do, but to always weigh the pros and cons, to think priorities only about myself," she said.

During a family vacation in Boracay in January 2011, Ray told Fred of his plan to propose marriage to his daughter, seeking his blessing in the process. Ray wanted to keep it a secret from Sasha.

Fred proposed to Sasha in springtime in a spot overlooking the ocean in Hotel Dumo, Malibu.

"The moment was perfect. The sun was setting and seagulls were flying overhead. The weather was just right, too," recalled Sasha.

Instead of champagne, they toasted with ginger ale (Sasha doesn't take alcohol.)

Ideal partner

Sasha described Ray as a partner, "He's smart, very level-headed, very down-to-earth and very hardworking, a major plus."

Q&A Manoja Abrisham sings "Moon River" with husband Bobbyan the violin

FLOWER girls Julia Marcos, Abi Manoja-Abrisham and Angie Perez

DANCE Lisa with Bobby del Rosario and Lisa Marcos-Escalante

Among his plans is to building a mixed use resort in Quezon City.

In August 2011, the couple had a civil wedding at the presidential suite at the Peninsula Manila.

With their two callies, they moved to a Makati subdivision.

Last April 20, the couple had their second wedding at San Sebastian Church. Bojo Laurel designed the gowns of the bridal entourage.

The newlyweds rode the vintage Rolls Royce owned by Manoja, and held their reception at National Museum, with Mesa Gloria doing the catering.

The honeymoon was at Annapolis, made merrier with the friends and fellow classmates.

Sasha is looking forward to being an early mom. Some years ago, she was given a more potent maintenance medication that she could be weaned from so she could have a normal pregnancy.

She feels confident about what lies ahead.

"I'm strong emotionally, mentally after everything I've been through. When something is ordered of me, or if I know I am in the position of helping or doing some good for a cause or a person (or persons), I do my very best."

Cebu as world . . .

From page B1

years, always made their hearts grow fonder. Definitely not "out of sight, out of mind." By Christmas 1960 they were together again, in Manila, and told their families.

They settled in Cebu in June 1964 and made their home in Talamban, Cebu City. "It has been smooth and rough sailing," Alda says, recalling laughters and tears, according to what life invariably brings along.

Through it all, they love the same food, songs, movies, and TV programs. They have their valued supporters, and bonded with their respective sets of friends and relatives. "We even share the same vitamins," Mila says with a beaming smile.

Golden memories

Speaking of golden wedding anniversaries, Jillionites and Saddle (nee Gaspar) Calamaide recalled that meeting in 1962 when they walked the aisle of the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral for a very important date. They chose the same venue last April 14 for a solemn mass of thanksgiving and renewal of vows.

Fr. Dave Villaceran officiated. Sponsors were Honorary Count of Belgium Enrique Rosales and wife Nelia Uy, former city Lory Beaton, lawyer Manuel Gil and Milagros Ecarma, Alberto and Bernadita Barrera, Manuel Lebumfacil and Mrs. Nimfa Escanlar, lawyer Adolfino Riley and Bella Cabera, Mr. and Mrs. Germelino Ramos.

All and Saddie's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren figured prominently in the entourage. Maids of honor were daughters Jen Elizabeth C. Suaco and Joy C. Formentos, while sons Joel and Jed Calamaide were best men.

The bridesmaids were granddaughters Christine Ayessa Ayalde-Lam, Eleanor Marie, Therese Clare, Kathreen Claire, Leah Elaine, Louise Anne, Catherine Marie and Kirsten Dame.

Concomitant were grandsons Francois Anthony, James Michael, Jan Dominic, Dan Christian, Melvin Bell, John Stewart and Adam Eberwulf. Philip Anthony, Joshua Matthias and Kelvin Silvestre bore the bible, coins and rings, respectively.

Many family members attended the couple during the rites: candle sponsors Myrna Galuste and Odilon Calamaide; veil sponsors Arden Garot and Lenye Calamaide; cord sponsors Rolando Ramsey and Melanie Calamaide.

The reception and brunch followed at the ballroom of Holiday Plaza Hotel. This was an occasion to reminisce about sundry anecdotes and experiences. But one thing Ali's father, the late journalist Pedro Calamaide was a legend in his own time.

He, jasper, The Morning Times, was founded at the height of World War II, printed clandestinely in the mountains of Barili (southern Cebu) with news derived from a radio. The Japanese never discovered it. Later, as a daily, it courted with subscribers from abroad, including Queen Elizabeth II.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Historic places of piety and spiritual comfort

ETS. PETER and Paul Parish Church is a National Cultural Treasure.

By Aurelio S. Tayao

WHILE BEACH lovers head for Shrimas or Hundred Islands, Alaminos, in Pangasinan during summer, others flock for a different kind of outing in the towns of Manaoag and Calasiao.

Every year on May 2-3, Calasiao celebrates the feast of the Señor Divino Tesoro (Divine Treasure), the "talisacalisac" image of the crucified Christ draws pilgrims in the yo're making town, especially during Holy Week.

It is said that the Señor Divino Tesoro was owned by a certain Don Francisco Palaroni, a resident of Calasiao, who lived alone with the image for 10 years. People believed that Don Francisco was protected by the image because of his devotion to it. During one particular storm in 1837, a neighbor saw how the roof of Don Francisco's hut was blown off by strong

Our Lady of Rosary of Manaoag

Why we love Rosales

my city my SM

On the Road to Rosales

Rosales, Pangasinan is a junction town for travelers to different parts of the province, and to northern Luzon. Although originally an agricultural town, it is now on the crossroads of urbanization as one of the finalists in the Search for New Tourist Destinations in the country and as the Cleanest and Most Peaceful Municipality in Pangasinan. Its local economy is considered one of the best in Pangasinan with the opening of SM City Rosales. It is this progressive spirit that has brought about the rise of young talents like chess prodigy Samantha Revita and Sudoku champion Sarah Jane Cua, who after bringing home the gold in international competitions are happy to come home to their Rosales, their SM.

SAMANTHA REVITA

SARAH JANE CUA

Why we love SM

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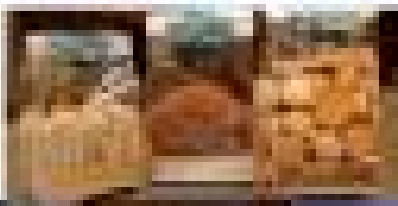
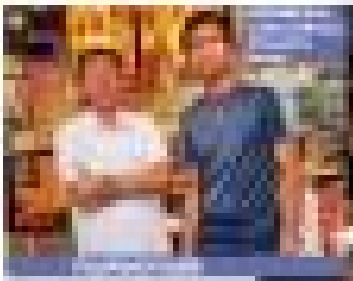
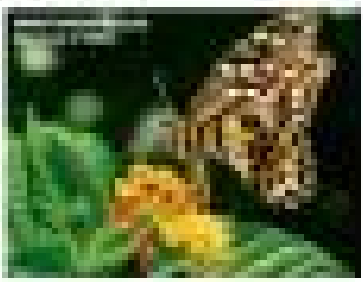
Interesting food–and foodies

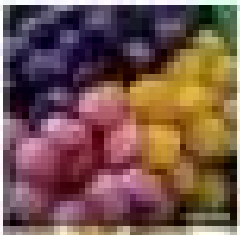


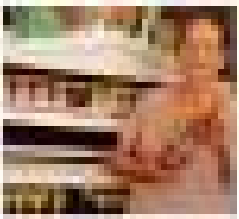


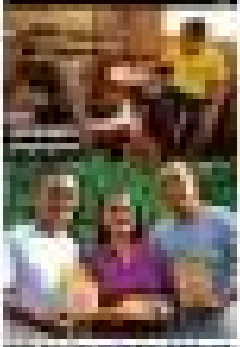
Enjoy a river cruise, revel in butterflies



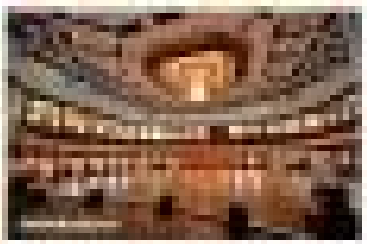
'Puto, tupig, bagoong, daing'—proudly Pangasinan-made







Pangasinan's 'golden age' reflected in its public buildings



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Tip! After registering to PowerSurf, download the My Data Monitoring app to guide you on your data consumption.

Historic places of piety...

Browse page A1

winds, but the image inside remained dry.

There are other stories. During World War II, a fire that was raging through Cebadan's poblacion was suddenly blown away by the wind, when a Thanksgiving Mass was offered to this image, saving a lot of homes. And, despite bombs that fell during the American war around the municipal hall where the image was housed, the Divino Tesoro remained unscathed.

On September 2008, however, the municipal hall was burned, including the original image. A replica and a new shrine were constructed in April 2009.

DEVOTEES patiently line up, waiting for their turn to pay homage to Nuestra Señora de Piñarong.

ALTAR of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Church

World Heritage site

Across the street from the Señor Divino Tesoro Shrine is the Santo Pedro and Paul Parish Church, a Unesco World Heritage site and National Cultural Treasure.

"St. Peter was the head of the apostle, and St. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles," says Rev. Fr. Rolando B. Layog, parish priest. "We put them together as patron saints to really emphasize their role in the Church."

Established in 1588, the church was declared a heritage site "because of its role in the evangelization of Pangasinan."

"It's the second church to be established here in Pangasinan," says Layog. "The first is in San Carlos, built in 1587."

"The church has a well-preserved Baroque architecture, most of its structure has remained unchanged. Beside it is the convent, which Layog uses as his quarters.

"During Holy Week, the church is very popular for Visita Iglesia," Layog says. "It is one of the primary stops, aside from the famous Wawang [Shrine]."

"Famous" seems like an understatement once one enters the Shrine of Our Lady of Rosary of Manaoag, even on a regular Sunday. The place is jam-packed with devotees. Much like the Señor Divino Tesoro, the Nuestra Señora de Manaoag, or "Apo Baket," is believed to be a miraculous image.

Many pilgrims usually come during the Lenten and Easter seasons, and in October, the month of the Holy Rosary.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Joseph Calata: Self-made billionaire at 31

The Bulakeño, who took over from his mother's poultry feed store, will be the country's youngest businessman to list his firm in PSE

JOSEPH Calata with his signature watch and rockabilly pompadour

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

ON A SWELTERING summer day and helping a texan schedule, Joseph Calata looked fresh and relaxed as he strode into the lounge at Marañaña Oriental Mindo.

He wore a dark three-piece Zara suit, his no-nonsense look offset by his trademark quiff and Playboy Whip Fat tie.

When the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) rings the bell on May 23, the 31-year-old self-made billionaire will become the country's youngest businessman ever to list his company through an initial public offering. He will also become the youngest chairman of a PSE-listed entity.

Calata has transformed a modest family business into the country's largest distributor of agricultural products and veterinary medicines. The net proceeds from Calata Corp.'s P2.93-million IPO are earmarked for the expansion of retail outlets nationwide.

"It's also ellusion to getting international deals," Joseph said. "If there are other companies looking for an agricultural company in lower in, it's easier if the company is listed."

The branch of Calata Corp. in the stock exchange is the highest point in his career so far. The company scored P2.7 billion worth of revenues last year.

It took some organization, calculated risks and luck for him to amass such a fortune. Instinctively, he adopted the principles embraced by billionaires: Save money, live frugally, keep the costs on the grindstone, create long-term plans, and make the best use of your resources.

"Outside of Manila, such as Bulacan and Nueva Ecija, everybody thrives on agriculture," Calata explained. "We are only the roads and the towns but behind those are rice fields, piggeries and poultry farms. What I sell is the input for what people eat. For them to eat rice, fertilizer for the soil is needed; while the rice is growing, it needs agrochemicals. I also supply the seeds. In all, the life of rice is supplied by Calata. We also provide what pigs and chickens eat."

Minding The Store

Born and raised in Bulacan, Joseph spends eloquent Tagalog and makes broad animated gestures with his hands, his

JOSEPH 11

How do you parent your parent?

Tales from the 'sandwich generation': 'I never thought I'd see the day when I'd be buying diapers for my daddy'

IF YOU FOUND parenting a child to be the challenge of a lifetime—which it is, really—wait till you have to play parent to your parent. He refused, we found, an excited group ever prepares you for it.

Perhaps that's why, over lunches or dinners, my friends and I invariably end up talking more and more about it. We seem to bond over it, sharing surprises we never prepared for, reading experiences our own sometimes too timid and shocked to admit, and pointing out our happiness, frustrations and despair we simply find hard to deal with alone.

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Joseph Calata: Self-made billionaire at 31

From page F1

have intermittently lighting up.

He has always been driven by high aspirations. He went on a Catholic boy's school in Holland. At De La Salle University (DLSU), he took up B.S. Math but shifted to Management of Financial Institutions.

But opening by nature, he joined a networking operation that sold multivitamins and other food supplements. He recruited people and put them through a seminar to help him sell the supplements.

In five months, he made P600,000 from commissions.

"I taught them everything about the products and those in service opportunity seminars, and anybody encouraged them," he recalled.

After graduating from DLSU, Joseph joined the family business, J. Melvin's, a pastry food store in Hinoba-an, Negros. It had been incorporated under the name Phantom Choice Agro Products established by his parents Eusebio and Isabel in 1978.

The store was named after Joseph's two older brother Melvin. His father was an agricultural trader; his mother, a working student before she married.

Joseph said he's moved by his mother's sacrifice. She worked hard six days a week to provide her four children the best schooling possible. Before Joseph was born, she served first as the business's secretary, then as its cashier; then the store product, annual funds, would be weighed on the spot and handed to customers, and the money was kept in a money piece in a drawer.

"I saw that the assistant could easily pilfer money if he or she wanted, whenever my mother was not in the store," he said.

"There was no audit, no POS (point of sale/transaction) checkout. At the end of any given day, the assistant could say 'We've sold, we have P20,000 worth of sales.' When it is not really P50,000!' My mother would have no way of knowing because there was no inventory/ledger. The store was probably making money because she was able to send all of us to school."

Although J. Melvin's had branches in Malabon, its main market were the farmers in Hacienda.

"The business was run Hinoba-style. Many would order and purchase; she would deposit the money in the bank. Ultimately, you couldn't expand with that system," said Joseph.

Taking the reins

He envisioned the backyard business as a professional corporation. He bought an accounting software that took him a year to master and tailor fit to the store.

"It was definitely trial-and-error but I wanted to prove that it could be done with patience and determination," he said. "I asked myself: 'Will I end up working in this store, merely getting charge for errand fees?' I decided to professionalize it. I worked 24/7. I could not make a new transaction if the previous day's sales had not been encoded... because I saw how things would pile up. I wanted to perfect the system. I had to know how much we made every day. Was there profit? How much?"

Joseph was single-minded in proving that putting a system (and a paper trail) in place was the way to go. Although recording the inventory was tedious, it guaranteed accuracy. Joseph used a ruler would to separate customer lists, for effect spotted discrepancies.

Like anyone introducing innovation in a time-honored setup, Joseph met opposition.

The customers were hard to pass through him at the window as he would encode their actions. They found this method too slow. They grew impatient in the long queues and left in a huff. His mother and relatives asked him to dump his system because it messed up the business.

Besides thought his son was building castles in the sky. "I told him I would be like a Chabarpower one day," Joseph chuckled.

His mother resisted additional expense, such as added manpower and a P2,000 printer.

Joseph was not about to stop. Out of his P6,000 monthly salary, he allotted P2,000 for his salesmen who went around with a list of products. He also used his own money to buy the printer. "If I wanted was to increase sales," he recalled.

His effort at computerization was rewarded when, one day, the recently refreshed a guest artist: "It showed that P500,000 was paid twice to a supplier," he

CALATA Corp. earned the respect of the industry for its high standards and professionalism.

POULTRY is raised in climate-controlled conditions.

Positive outlook

By 2000, the company had earned P1.6 billion. It was renamed Calata Corp. It has since established a partnership with San Miguel Corp. (SMC) for the latter's farm operations in Isabela and Davao, and clinched an inning for the Magnolia brand.

"We have 80,000 chickens every month in a climate-controlled system," he said. "We plan to expand. In Davao, we plan to raise 300,000. The breeder farm partner is with Magnolia's Crop Science. They supervise the performance and attend our poultry organization.

"I aligned myself with their vision," he explained. He added he's very straightforward in his dealings and pay premium on integrity.

Calata has been sharing his good fortune with General Kalinga, Child Protection Network, Cinemalaya, Sponsors of Youth of Mission Charities, Us Ambassador's fundraising for Sanchez Mountain, Empowering Indigent Minds Foundation, Red Cross and Indicon Ranch.

Obviously, his accomplishments are founded on a compelling inner strength. "When there are problems, I'm focused—I don't panic. I don't give up easily. When there's a problem, I see it as an opportunity."

How do you parent your parent?

From page F1

We've called the "sandwich generation"—sandwiched between our children who are grown up but whom we still consider to rear, and our parents who are in their twilight years and are beginning to get more juvenile and pose even greater challenges as when do our children.

It's not only a dual responsibility; it's a double-whammy.

"I never thought I'd see the day when I'd be buying diapers for my daddy," said a friend. "Nothing over prepares you for that feeling of serving a once-feared man looking helpless. It's not only maintenance; it's humbling, somewhat humiliating."

"Helpless yet in denial," said another. "They're the last in an adult they've no longer fit in do what they used to do, like driving or running the household. They can't admit that to themselves, much less to you."

A friend recalled how the electric bill in her parents' house had ballooned. Inquiring anyone her mom, who refused to relinquish the chore, couldn't remember where she kept the billing, but was too proud to admit the lapse.

When we wouldn't let her, I said, my mother took the bill all the way to Bohol, where Pamalican, to get the payment back, been the solution—but my dad, with only the help, no matter that she had blow P5,000 to half-a-day doing it.

"My Mom, making comps with my Dad, decided in his stead from the house and took the bus—at 11 in the evening—to my home in Quezon City), from Pamalican," said another friend.

"My Dad," said another friend, "After a fight with Mommy, walked out of the house obviously in a fit, and went missing the whole day. We would find out later that he took a bicycle, in Bohinon where they were living then, and took the bus to Surat, got off to Surat and walked the whole length to the entrance of our subdivision so he could

POULTRY is raised in climate-controlled conditions.

story with me in the house. That was for two days, until my mommy picked him up, and he went back to her with not even a whimper."

How ironic that, I said, two kids, thank God, never run away from home, yet our parents, in their old age, do.

"It's because," a friend said, "their struggles mirth each other get worse and worse. And it's about little, insignificant things. Like over dinner, Dad would say something about the food, and Mom, who'd feel slighted by a very little thing, would stand up from the dinner table and lock herself up in the room, not coming out for a couple of days.

"So weird," another friend said. "It's as if, having been through life together, through thick and thin, now they can't stand each other."

Is this what they call second childhood?, I said. Catfights in their second childhood?

"I very believe that my Dad is helping another to escape—by nagging at my Mom," said a friend, who was serious, by the way.

Ah, we all agreed, that aside all that wrangling, one's Mom and Dad can never be taken apart. I have a friend who, when her Dad was confined in the hospital, her Mom insisted on being confined as well, occupying the bed next to his.

Parents who are in their 60s or even 70s are a paradox: a son or daughter can never fully figure out. Their knife—good and bad—seem to become more pronounced as they get older. For instance, where a Mom used to be strict about the help, it could come over-strict, even cruel and paranoid in dealing with the household.

"Our caregivers seem to be going through a weathering door," said a friend. "My Mom lives one almost every week since she can't get along with them. She gets suspicious of them—that they don't treat my Dad good enough. It's my Dad related, hailed him was seen.

In 2004, Joseph took over the reins and expanded the business across Luzon. He was right to sense that the potential was huge. "There was a big demand for our products—frozen, agro-chemicals, fertilizers. We just had to tap it."

As the revenue shows ballooned, Joseph nurtured the respect of employees and, soon enough, the banks. "I have kept a clean record with banks. In fact the suppliers, I always honor my word. When they see a different, I'll allow."

Positive outlook

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Why we are a lot like our 'lolo' and 'lola'

IT'S NOT all about DNA, after all.

A fascinating story on the front page of Inquirer held a lot of people enthralled last Sunday. Perhaps it has become one of the paper's "most read" stories to date.

I found it interesting on many levels and reminded me of a discussion my daughter and I had over dinner a few days before in the story handed on the front page.

My daughter, a pre-med student, was patently exploiting in me the fascinating science of epigenetics. Spi what?

"A lot of my inherited traits come from Mama (Dad's late she calls my mom, her grandmother) so I am the way I am because of a lot of the stuff she probably went through as a child, as adults she was pregnant with you," my daughter began.

My mother, and not me? She certainly had my attention.

The Genetic Science Learning Center of University of Utah says, "Epigenetic inheritance is an unconventional finding. It goes against the idea that inheritance happens only through the DNA code that passes from parent to offspring. It means that a person's experiences before the time of epigenetic tags can be passed down to future generations. An unconventional as it may be, there is little doubt that epigenetic inheritance is real. In fact, it explains some strange patterns of inheritance scientists have been puzzling over for decades."

New science

True magazine did a cover story in January 2010 on this fascinating new science. A landmark research was conducted by Ingrun, a Norwegian scientist, and his team on descendants of people who had lived in Overkalix, a part of Norway that had known severe famine and only a few years of plenty.

The Time article said, "Ingrun and other scientists amassed historical evidence suggesting that powerful environmental conditions—in these cases from starvation, for instance) can somehow leave an imprint on the genes—a mutation in eggs and sperm. These genetic imprints can short-circuit evolution and pass along new traits in a single generation."

Even more interesting, Ingrun's study showed that in Overkalix, boys who enjoyed those rare overabundant winters—kids who went from normal eating to gluttony in a single season—produced sons and grandsons who lived shorter lives.

In a paper published in 2001 in the Dutch journal Internationale, Ingrun observed that the grandsons of Overkalix boys who had overeaten died on average of six years earlier than the grandsons of those who had endured a poor harvest.

The science of epigenetics can be explained in the most basic terms as the study of changes in gene activity that do not involve alterations in the genetic code, but still get passed down to at least one successive generation. It is through epigenetic marks that environmental factors like diet, stress and personal nutrition can make a footprint on genes that are passed from one generation to the next.

Ingrun's done, with those of many of his scientists now living, is empirically confirmed our 2B years, have given birth to a new science called epigenetics.

Impact

So, yes, there is basis to saying that the kind of child-hood your grandmother (if you are female), or your grandfather (if you are a boy)—the stresses she or he encountered, the kind of environmental factors they faced and lifestyle choices they made—may have had an impact on who you are today.

The conditions in the womb so pose we not yet prescribed but two. Three generations at once are exposed in the same environmental conditions, Barrasso, no.3). However, to provide a convincing case for epigenetic inheritance, an epigenetic change must be observed in the fourth generation.

The Time article cautions that we should not jump to conclusions based on this good news and bad. "We all know that you can exercise your own life if you smoke or overeat, but it's becoming clear that those units had behaviors can also predispose your kids—kids they may never conceived—to disease and early death."

I recall the story of a cousin who said that her mother bandy grandfather in the 1930s did nothing day in and day and do nothing but siphon, bed and smoke, what else, opium. Today, she says her exhusband likes to hole himself up in his den and watch television-fiction DVDs all night long. Different generations, a different drug, same addiction.

Science writer David Dobbs, author of "The Genius in All of Us: Why Everything About You've Been Told About Genetics, Talent and IQ Is Wrong," says epigenetics is helping usher in a "new paradigm" that "reveals how bonkers are the phrase 'nature versus nurture' really is."

Dobbs believed epigenetics is "perhaps the most important idea driving in the science of heredity since the gene."

Higher risk

In an even more recent study cited by Professor Gluckman and Ingrun (2006) conducted in the UK, it was found that the sons of men who smoked in prepubertal will be at higher risk be obesity and other health problems well into adulthood.

Childhood and puberty, after all, are related developmental stages; thus, you can change your epigenetics—even when you make a dumb decision at 13 years old. If you drink alcohol at, heaven forbid, take drugs, you may have made the only a medical time rake but a catastrophic genetic mistake.

I suppose the same is true when, as a child, you are exposed to highly stressful situations such as violence, broken home.

So perhaps there is some chemo and reason in trying to find your roots so that you can better understand your strengths and quirks that at (Mom) you would never be able to tell you. It's suggested says that although epigenetic traits come genetic, most of the traits are passed down to the same sex.

I find comfort in knowing that my grandmother I can say and my whole was one of the feariest women I ever knew. She raised 15 children and lost five in a time of war, Lola Ova lived to 91, was hale and healthy, and sharp to her dying day.

I love her and what makes us up are as complex as the human epigenome that has yet to be mapped out. To understand yourself better, look over generations up.

Which reminds, it pays to live healthy and make wise lifestyle choices—and to teach your children to do so, because someday your grandchildren and your great-grandchildren will be thankful that you did.

E-mail the author at cathy.babao@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter @cathybabao

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Gabalfin

To have an affair or not? That is the question

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I'm just curious. Is it ok to have an affair with a married man if the reasons to you have each other? This is different from the case of the married woman who used her affair with her married friend as a remedy.

I fell in love with a classmate in high school who is now married. He said he loved me in high school and found out that he still does after we met, many years without contact.

I.

Is this a rhetorical question or are you just craving the joint? Could it be possible it is a done deal already? You were mentioned whether you're married yourself.

Should the Bible say you're already stoned just thinking about it? Quite the same as saying, "If you ain't think it, you ain't do it."

It's not as simple as all that really not exactly plain black and white, or an open and shut case. First, now that he's still in love with you after all these years, what now? Are you going to open your arms to each other because "the feeling is mutual" and after you get over the bump, will it be an "afternoon delight" sort of thing? Second, what if it gets serious here on, will you leave both your families and run into the sunset?

If, indeed, you're married, too, are you having "thought" because of your unhappiness with your husband, because he is cruel, or a womanizer, or so exciting as a frozen fish, or lord? Could you be just plain bored?

Why did you two break up and marry others in the first place if you were so in love with each other? There must have been factors serious enough to cause your hearts from each other and disengage a future together.

Think twice, thrice, many times before you jump. Dating is so much different from living with each other 24/7. But if giving in to those "smoldering embers" will make you better persons, that is, make you love and appreciate your own families more, who are we mere mortals to judge? The weight is for you and your ex-wife to ponder and the "what could have been" and "what ifs" once and for all.

Why allow the whole house to burn down when the flames that may have already eaten up the welcome mat be stopped completely from even entering the entrance door?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph or emarcelo629@gmail.com; Subject: Lifestyle

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couples, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Features, PO. Box 2332 Makati Central Post Office 1260 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Noel Ocampo Lontoc and Leida Josephine "Baby" Carpio Lontoc will renew their wedding vows on June 3, 4 p.m. at Iglesia ni Kristo Chapel in Bonakaya, Kawit, Cavite. Reception will follow at the Tejero Grand Ballroom, Island Cove Hotel and Leisure Park, Cavite. The silver and black, glam-themed event will be accompanied by Alex M. Bandoy of KreativPlus.

The bride will wear a very elegant mesh silver prey gown with high dress medallion, fitted bodice with 3/4 sleeves, and bling pearls and Swarovski crystals, created by Fred Marcos.

DE GUZMAN DEBUT

Rio Katherine De Guzman, daughter of Mario and Catherlyn de Guzman, recently celebrated her 15th birthday at the Igorrotahe Ballroom, Island Cove Hotel and Leisure Park in Cavite City. The debutante is a BS Accountancy sophomore student at the University of Santo Tomas.

Mec Santos of Events Plus coordinated the event.

Rio wore a one-piece, five-layer blue bouffant gown made of drape dat chiffon and taffeta silk, highlighted with heavy embellishment of sequins, Japan cut beads and Swarovski crystals.

REPE-SIOSON NUPTIALS

Reynelo Jonathan B. Repe, son of Col. Juan II and Alicia Repe, and Ana Rhonie Sioson, daughter of Francisco and Ramona Sioson, on March 30 tied the knot at Iglesia Ni Cristo, Gilmidor Lo-cain, Naguilo City. The wedding reception was held at Dupascountry Club, Tarlac City. The bride wore a Cecilia Mead creation.

Fluffy fun time with EQ Dry Fluffy Friends!

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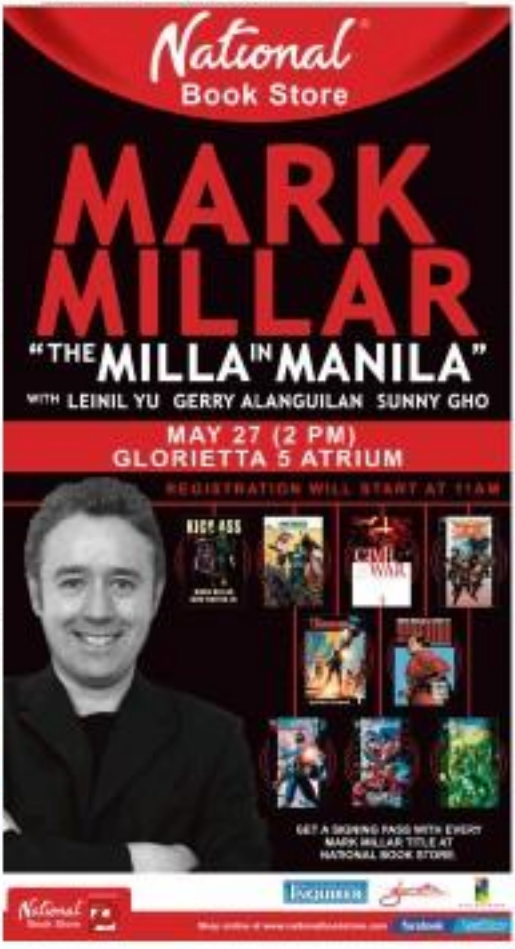
Redemption period runs from May 7 - August 6, 2012. Two receipts, two (or many) fluffy friends are yours! Valid in Luzon! Promo EQ Dry wrappers only! For more details please see posters. Rules and point advice are may log on to www.eqdiapers.com.ph For EQ LIFE Parent Inc. 2012 Series II 2012.



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ADVENTURE IMPORT-EXPORT

Meet the 10 adventure-seeking teams in the Jollibee Drive-Thru Cross-Country Challenge

What would you do if you and your best buddy, colleague, cousin or special someone were given a chance to drive across the country in just ten days? And what if in doing so, you also stand to become richer by P1 million and be the proud owners of two brand new cars?

Ten teams – composed of two members each – are all geared up for the ultimate and most rewarding road trip adventure of their lives via the Jollibee Drive-Thru Cross-Country Challenge.

The teams embark on a 10-day adventure across the country where they will vie for 1 million pesos and two brand-new Ford Fiesta 1.4L A/T Hatchbacks. Let's meet them up-close and personal, and see if they have what it takes to emerge as the Jollibee Drive-Thru Cross-Country Champs!

Team 1 – Anthony and Niko

Level Allies Niko Dizon, 32, and Anthony Gan, 33, have been friends since they were kids. Niko is a registered nurse and industrial engineer who manages his own businesses, while Anthony is a part-time professor and Admissions officer at a university in their hometown of Cagayan de Oro. For them, the Jollibee Drive-Thru Cross-Country Challenge is the perfect way to celebrate their decades-old friendship and to bid Niko's bachelorhood adieu before he gets married in August. Through the challenge, they also hope to bring some cheer to their beloved hometown, which went through troubled times in the previous months. In case they win, they will donate a portion of the cash prize to support their home province.

Team 2 – Neil and Ulysses

Ulysses Arg, 31, and Neil Pagsolyan, 38, are the **Kings of the Road.** Uly is a motoring correspondent for a national broadsheet, while Neil is a disc jockey on 99.5 RT. Both are enthusiastic, the buddies frequently attend car and motoring events here and abroad to check out and review the latest models. They are the Jollibee Drive-Thru Cross-Country Challenge as an opportunity for them to explore the Philippines. The two believe that their genuine friendship and sense of humor will get them through the rough roads ahead. As Neil put it, "The physical and mental challenges will be tough, so it pays to do this with someone you can really get along with."

Team 3 – Robert and Quinnie

Robert Ross, 37, and Quinnie Wiliarna, 33, are **Magnetic Opposites.** A debate coach and lawyer working at the Supreme Court, Rob is the type who strategizes and thinks carefully before he acts. His counterpart, Quinnie, is an Advertising Management master and former PR intern, is more impulsive, enthusiastic, and spontaneous. The pair's pre-challenge preparations are another testament to their differences. While they both are studying words and phrases in other Philippine languages, they have distinctive goals for Q. It's how to greet others and introduce herself, while Rob is learning how to ask for directions.

Team 4 – Joaquin and Francis

Party Pals Francis Cuts, 28, and Joaquin Perez, 25, became buddies after many nights out with the same circle of friends. Francis is a trained chef managing a Thai restaurant and preparing to open a new Chinese concept there. He is out to show his adventurous side and prove that he can do a lot of things outside the realms of the kitchen. For Joaquin, the cross-country challenge serves as his last hurrah before he shifts gears and dives into medical school.

Team 5 – Michelle and Prince

Michelle Estuar and Prince Bettaur, both 36, are **The Ultrarunners.** They share a passion for sports and competing, and are banking on their athletic experience and strong will to win the top spot. Both have competed in various local and international marathons, including the Pioneer Death March Ultramarathon race that covered a staggering 102 kilometers. Through the Jollibee Drive-Thru Cross-Country Challenge, they are hoping to dispel the rumors that athletes are all brawn and no brains. Since running is an individual sport, they say they're excited to find out how they will fare as a team.

Team 6 – Cerah and Andre

Cerah Hernandez, 25, and Andre Go, 24, are the **Wifey and Wacky 10 Duo** of 88.9/93.1 A have conversation, Cerah also sings and acts, and dabbles in makeup and commercial modelling. For her part of basketball legend Jeff Go, Andre is a self-confessed geek who loves computer games, comics and graphic novels, and also plays the guitar. From shedding to eating bugs, stunts A and the two are game for it. Cerah and Andre are excited to take on the cross-country challenge while discovering more of the Philippines' stunning sights.

Team 7 – Paul Ida and Jan

Former Pinoy Big Brother housemate Paul Ida Castillo, 27, and Jan Sobrepeña, 32, are **Best Buds.** Ida to any friendship, they agree a lot, but they agree that it is the very reason why they are such good friends. Their disagreements help them come up with the best solutions for any setback, and they believe this will serve to handle during the cross-country challenge. Both hailing from Cebu, Paul Ida is into drag racing, flag football, boxing, running, and trail biking, while Jan is a fan of basketball, flag football, and badminton.

Team 8 – JM and Irene Ubaña

JM, 34, is a volunteer firefighter, Red Cross volunteer, barangay official, and member of the Army Reserve Force, while Irene, 34, is a financial consultant and businesswoman. These **Partners in Life** have been together for 13 years and are blessed with three children. Both are risk takers, and enjoy fun runs and participating in church activities. For them, the Jollibee Drive-Thru Cross-Country Challenge is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure that will make their solid relationship even stronger.

Team 9 – Jon and Maria

Jon Hall, 31, and Maria Fernson, 22, are **Love Partners in Crime.** After being introduced by her sister more than a year ago, the two have been inseparable. Jon is no stranger to the limelight, as he has a slew of modelling and acting gigs under his belt. The same can be said for Filipina Swedish Maria, a commercial model who recently starred in the TV commercial for Jollibee's Chicken and Mushroom Pasta. Jon loves basketball, football, and boxing, while Maria is into soccer, swimming, floor hockey, horseback riding, wakeboarding and spearfishing. The pair says they are game for any challenge and are ready to show off their competitive side.

Team 10 – Angela and Charlie

10-English Charlie Sanchez, 23, and 10-Italian Angela Cacciatore, 21, are the **Euro-Pinoy Models.** Charlie is an avid football player and part of the UST Panegal football Club. Angela studied ballet for eight years in a prestigious school in Italy and moved to the Philippines to pursue a career in dance. Working as commercial, runway and print models, the duo looks forward to knowing the Philippines better, and is excited for the physical and mental evolution in the Jollibee Drive-Thru Cross-Country Challenge.

Follow their fun adventures on the road by visiting www.facebook.com/JollibeePhilippines!

The Jollibee Drive-Thru Cross-Country Challenge is also made possible with the support of Bonpack and Interpoint, the official mobilizers, and Samsung Galaxy Note, the official mobile device of the 10 teams.

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YOUNA Santos SHARON Cuneta

Jessica's got it

The full support of Filipino celebs, that is

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FILIPINO celebrities are united in their support for Filipino-Mexican-American actress Jessica Sanchez, who will compete in the grand finale of the talent search "American Idol," to be held at the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles on May 22 and 23 (May 23 and 24 in Manila).

Before the big showdown between Jessica and guitar-strumming heartthrob Phillip Phillips, Filipino celebrities made known their unequivocal love for the pint-sized diva with the powerhouse voice.

Celeste Legaspi
Singer

"First time I saw her perform, I was immediately impressed. She has quite a voice—a wide range with higher registers that she uses in a pure way and then [she] control[s] along [when she's] growling. She sheds love in the low registers with ease, vowel and groot musicality — like the love diong shows [to] that she has an understanding of the lyric. For a 16-year-old, that is truly a gift.

Jon Santos
Stand-up comic

"Classic songs sound even greater when sung with a Filipina beauty. Aside from being a Filipinaness, I'm into it [because]...

Sharon Cuneta
Singer-actress

(CONTINUED ON G2)

POOLS are perfect for her "Little Mermaid" -themed debut next year.

GMA 7 teen star moves into a condo compound designed like a resort in an urban setting

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Ronny Hontiveros

IT'S A BARE blessing, she said. See all teenagers can call themselves a proud homeowner at such a tender age. She's 17.

GMA 7 teen star Joyce Ching made that big leap after only seven years in show business.

From Makati, Joyce and her family (parents Mirela and Michael, older sister Rachel and younger brother John Reuben) moved to a new mid-rise condominium compound in Pasig in October last year.

She said her parents personally took care of the interiors. Mom and dad visited local malls for the furnishings and decor, like the framed miniatures of European churches in the dining area. They bought the dining set from SM; the sofa set from Sumisalo Center. The bean bags are Joyce's picks. "I like sitting on them while watching TV," she said.

"It was my husband's idea to install private-and-unique light fixtures," mom noted. "The mirrors make the place look bigger."

The unit is only 58 square meters but it's "just right for me and my family," said Joyce. She described the condominium complex as a "resort in the middle of the city."

(PAGE G2)

KIDS can frolic, a girl's simple pleasure

Jessica's got it

I'm so happy and excited! She makes me prouder to be Pinoy. I am praying that she wins.

Ogie Alcasid
Singer-GMA executive

Jessica is a real blessing, she was born to be a star.

Lea Salonga
Singer-actress

This is the fastest that an American Idol Asian descent has gone to "American Idol." This is testament to her hard work and talent, the support of her family, and the unstoppable force that have stood by her week after week. Whatever the outcome, she is a star and will have a wonderful future in the music industry.

Yam Laranas
Filmmaker

I am proud that she is not "starved" by starving networks and that she

JESSICA SANCHEZ

native Filipino fans.

Vilma Santos
Actress-politician

She's the pride of Filipinos. She brings positive news to our people and country. Mabuhay ka, Jessica!

Jose Javier Reyes
Filmmaker

I am extremely excited and very whelmed for someone with Filipino blood to get her share of the international spotlight. I hope her journey will inspire Filipino-artists of all stripes to realize that the stage is boundless ... Gerald, you Salonga, Arnel Pineda, Charice, Monique Lhuillier, Oliver Tolentino, Jessie Mercado, Ismael Rumsfeld, Bernardo Ginzon—and the others who came before them. The sky must be the limit; greater talent known no bounded

Leah Navarro
Singer

I'm very happy for her. Although not as pronounced as JG, I've experienced contentedness and it's tough going. Break a leg, Jessica!

Moy Ortiz
Singer

I am over the moon that she made it to the very final round. I believe that she truly deserves the title, considering her musical capabilities, musicality to a wider international audience, her very young age and her versatility. A win for Jessica is a guaranteed boost to our country's morale.

Eugene Domingo
Comedienne

We are having mixed emotions as a music-mix goes in heaven—and heave an up-and-coming star shining brighter & wild), crazy thought: Can she become as big as Donna Summer? The best is yet to come for Jessica. World, get ready for Jessica!

Ryan Cayabyab
Composer

Bring out the best bottles of wine and raise our glasses and toast Jessica. She was already a winner in my book, even before she made it to the Top 12. Her voice quality is extraordinary in his young age, she has the polish and the charm and the command of her voice. She is musical to a pop-and her voice will register well in recording. Listeners will definitely not get tired of her voice. It'll be just a big bonus if she wins.

Madonna Decorse
Singer

The very moment he hers. It feels great to hear people from all over the world admiring her vocal prowess. I watched her compete on "America's Got Talent" when she was a kid, and as early as then I already knew she was special. I always post on my Twitter, Facebook and My-space page, encouraging people to vote for her. She will make history if she wins. But win or lose, we will always be proud of her.

Gary Valenciano
Singer

Her triumph will do more for the Philippines than the realities. Her ominous her age, she already has an exceptional way of interpreting another artist's song as if it was her own. As good as she is now, the best is yet to come.

Tessie Tomas
Actress

It's wonderful! I started watching the show regularly because of her. Filipino talent is truly world-class.

Willie Nepomuceno
Mixed-up comic

She's full of star appeal. She's a fine dresser who carries herself, in her super high heels, well. Still, you can see that her deportment is very Filipina, especially whenever she's critiqued by the judges. What beautiful! I hope her Filipino will work in her favor. May her soulful voice win the hearts of America-which is prejudice to the color of her skin.

Exclusive
Opens May 23 at Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3 & Trinoma Cinemas
The only one who can stop a killer is the man who inspired him.
The Raven

ENTRANCE to the function room, where her surprise birthday party was held last January

Joyce of summer

From page G1

There are swimming pools in the compound, plus a basketball court and a gym. "It's very quiet here," she said. "I feel safe. Plus, it's accessible and around near malls and the studio."

Joyce decided to move in upon the suggestion of a cousin who also lives in the complex. "It's a good investment, too," she said. "Before, I dreamt only of owning my own car." She did that recently as well; she now owns a white CRV.

"It's a great feeling," Joyce said of having her own home and vehicle. "I can see where my earnings are going."

Through her parents, Joyce learned to appreciate the work of Jay evangelist Ito Anacleto, also an entrepreneur and author whose books instilled in her a healthy attitude toward money and kept her grounded in the sometimes crazy world of show biz.

Practical person

She has counseled other young people on show materialism, and calls herself a "practical" person. "I don't buy anything on impulse. I don't go for luxury brands. I prefer to save my earnings," she noted.

When she was a kid, her parents refused to buy her Sisters and Barbie dolls. "They said those toys were too expensive, that I'd soon get tired of them." As bank would have it, she started receiving lots of dolls and stuffed toys from fans until yesterday when she joined the fun.

When she earned her first paycheck, she gifted herself with a My Scene doll—with mom's approval. The girl clearly deserved a little restand every now and then. she had been working since age 10.

After a series of TV commercials (for banks and soaps), she was cast in the GMA 7 pag show "Bubble Gang Jr."

When she studied the newfound room years, Joyce stayed on course. And then she hit the jackpot when she joined the program "Tween Hearts."

Apart from "Tweens," a weekly youth-show, she is now regularly in the afternoon soap opera "Broken Vow" and the weekly variety show "Party Pilipinas."

Upside-down

Joyce admitted that "Tweens" turned her world upside down. She was hyperactive as a kid, she recalled. "But when I became a tween, I became quiet and reserved."

Joining "Tween" and being surrounded by young stars her age, encouraged her to be more outgoing and assertive.

She also gamely ventured out of her comfort zone and played a cancerous in the afternoon soap "Share Gang ang Blessabells."

Playing a bad girl was "challenging," she remembered. "I was always screaming and scheming. I was not used to it."

She relished just saying a complex character, though. "She started out as a good girl, but she got obsessed with wealth. She changed. The soap taught me the importance of knowing my character's range."

It pushed her to an actor, she said, especially since she frequently shared the screen with veterans like Gardo Versoza. "Sigo Gardo gave me precious tips: I should feel the scene. I shouldn't force things. Let the emotions flow naturally. When I felt about to cry scene, he would tell me to try again." She appreciated his honesty.

Culinary arts

On top of her show biz commitments, she recently went back to school to take up Culinary Arts in 2003 Academy in Quezon City.

Joyce learns her way around the kitchen and wants to develop her love of cooking. Mom has shared some recipes with her. "My favorite among my mom's specialties is spaghetti." Her mom can also whip up a mean sinigang, *fish sarciado*, and a relaxing menudo, she said. "I have cooked Chow-chalina, too."

Her week is invariably crammed with tapings and school work, so she looks forward to lazy days at home.

JOYCE ILIO

DECORATIVE balls from the mall

CABINET stands against a mirror that makes the room look bigger

FRAMED drawings of European churches in the dining room

HER BEDROOM is a sanctuary. She used to share one with her siblings.

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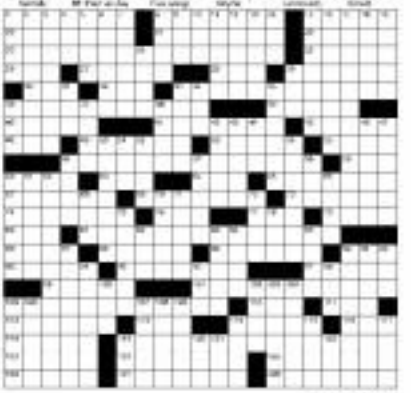
KRIS BERNAL

DURING the long Holy Week vacation, I wanted to keep busy so I brought several books. One of the books I'm reading now is "Men are From Mars, Women are From Venus" by John Gray. For me, it's not just about figuring out the opposite sex. It also helps me understand myself and other women... our mood swings and little quirks. It's all about human behavior. It helps me in my daily life. It has taught me not to dwell too much on other people's mistakes, but to look inward and reflect on my own shortcomings, too.

Raynel San Diego Jr.
www.raynelsandiego.com

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — AFTERWORDS



answer on page 43

SUDOKU

Concepto Sudoku

		6		4			9	
9								
	1	7			2	6		8
		7				2		
2								6
		5				3		
8	4	2		3		1		
								7
	3			5		4		

Answer to previous puzzle

8	1	7	5	2	4	3	9	6
2	9	6	3	1	8	7	5	4
4	5	3	6	7	9	8	2	1
1	3	9	1	4	7	2	6	5
6	2	8	9	5	3	9	1	7
7	1	5	8	9	2	5	4	3
3	6	1	2	8	5	6	3	9
9	8	4	7	6	1	4	7	2
5	7	2	4	3	6	1	8	5

GRACE LEE

MY NEW Year's resolution is to read at least one book a week. Now, I am reading "Cleopatra: A Life" by Stacy Schiff, a Pulitzer-winning author. It's interesting and energizing. I think it's the best biography written on the Egyptian queen. It doesn't just rely on theories; it is based on historical facts. I feel that Cleopatra has been too glamorized by Hollywood. I am slowly discovering so many things about her... that she spoke various languages and was educated at a time when only men were given access to knowledge. She is one of the greatest female political figures in history. No one else made as big a difference in the world as she did during her time.

Reporter/ Ken Diego Jr.
rufrancia@yahoo.com

MARA YOKOHAMA

MY SAINTS friend, psychology professor Ramon Olea, introduced me to Jill Salisbury's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy. "The Fellowship of the Ring," "The Two Towers," "The Return of the King". Plus, "The Hobbit." I'm actually not done with the series, but I love it so far. It's great that both kids and adults can enjoy the books. There is a lot to discover, while reading each installment. As a Christian, there is so much we learn from Salisbury's works, too.

Reporter/ Ken Diego Jr.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 What to Expect When You're Expecting
10:00am | 12:25pm | 1:55pm | 4:20pm | 6:50pm | 9:20pm | 11:55pm

2 Safe
9:00am | 11:25am | 1:55pm | 4:25pm | 6:55pm | 9:30pm | 12:15am

3 The Avengers in 3D
9:45am | 12:35pm | 3:30pm | 6:30pm
Dark Shadows
8:30pm | 11:40pm

4 Every Breath You Take
10:15am | 2:15pm | 10:15pm | 12:30am

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2 Dark Shadows
2:50pm • 5:20pm • 7:50pm • 10:10pm

3 The Avengers
2:00pm • 5:00pm • 8:00pm • 11:00pm

4 Safe
12:50pm • 3:10pm • 5:40pm • 8:00pm • 10:30pm

5 What to Expect When You're Expecting
12:30pm • 3:00pm • 5:30pm • 8:00pm • 10:30pm

6 The Avengers in 2D
1:00pm • 4:10pm • 7:30pm • 10:50pm

7 Dark Shadows
2:00pm • 4:10pm • 7:00pm • 10:00pm

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CINEMAS

1 What to Expect When You're Expecting
10:00am • 12:10pm • 2:40pm • 5:10pm • 8:30pm

2 The Avengers in 2D
11:00am • 1:50pm • 4:50pm • 7:50pm • 10:40pm

3 Dark Shadows in 2D
12:00nn • 2:30pm • 5:00pm • 7:30pm • 10:00pm

4 Every Breath You Take
10:00am • 12:30pm • 2:40pm • 5:10pm • 7:20pm • 9:40pm

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GLORIETTA 4
1: THE AVENGERS
2: SAFE
3: DARK SHADOWS
4: THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY
5: 21 JUMPSTREET
6: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
7: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

GREENBELT 1
1: DARK SHADOWS
2: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

GREENBELT 2
1: THE AVENGERS
2: DARK SHADOWS
3: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
4: SAFE
5: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
2: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING
3: THE AVENGERS (2D)
4: SAFE
5: DARK SHADOWS

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: RESERVED
2: SAFE
3: 21 JUMPSTREET
4: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

MARQUEE
1: DARK SHADOWS
2: THE AVENGERS
3: SAFE
4: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

AYALA FESTIVAL
1: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
2: SAFE
3: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: THE AVENGERS (2D)
6: MIDNIGHT RETURNS
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: SAFE
2: THE AVENGERS
3: DARK SHADOWS
4: WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING
5: 21 JUMPSTREET
6: THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY
7: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE

ABREEZA
1: DARK SHADOWS
2: 21 JUMPSTREET
3: EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE
4: SAFE

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THE RAVEN

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Joyce of summer

From page G1

Since moving to the new condo, she has become a homebody: "In the past, I would often drag my mom to the mall. Now I'd rather hang out at home ... or in my cousin's pad nearby."

Her favorite nook is her bedroom. "When there's no work, I sleep all day," she said. "My room is so relaxing that I feel sleepy in there."

In their old house, she shared a room with her siblings. "I'm glad that I now have my own room," she said. "I could do what I want with it and decorate it my way."

True to form, the room is girly and dainty—filled with all sorts of dolls and other souvenirs from the biz. Aside from My Scene dolls, she has Barbie, Sponge Bob and Hello Kitty toys.

HUGGED pixies with an Rachel (right)

She has also displayed trophies from school competitions and kiddie pageants in the room. Little Miss Drinkin' Donuts in Sta Rosa, Miss Bellfries, Miss Rosario-tary (from the Mahal) Integrated Chemists Association), Dance and Move Outstanding Christian awards.

"I won the Barbie doll in 'Bubble Gang Jr.' I was the Most Behaved in the cast," she said.

When "Tweet" had a taping in Enchanted Kingdom, she played one of the amusement park's games and won a Sheldon J. Plankton stuffed toy.

Plankton—the antagonist in the cartoon series "SpongeBob SquarePants"—is her favorite cartoon character of all time.

Her Plankton dolls come in all sizes, she said. "I got the small one in Glorietta, the medium-sized one from Sico City. The biggest was a present from a fan who bought it in 3M North Edsa."

Her fans also gifted her with her portraits that now hang in the bedroom.

She pointed out that the members of her fans' club, Ching Lovers, are not only loyal; they are quite generous as well. They threw a surprise birthday party for her when she turned 17 last Jan. 5.

"They planned it with my dad," she recounted. "After dinner whereas the

SETTLING her makeup in the washroom

BEAN bags in the living room were her personal picks.

Tony Pilipinas," my dad told me so go to my cousin's condo unit. Turned out, they were preparing and decorating the cousin's club for the party."

When she turns 18 next year, Joyce said she wants to have a "swimming party" which is just perfect since there are several pools in the compound. "I want a princess theme for my debut. The Little Mermaid," she said.

The party will still feature a traditional 18 Roses dances, but it will be more laid-back and tropical in motif. "I don't know how to swim, so I will just stay to the children's pool," she quipped.

DINING table was a must find.

Outdoorsy

She apparently enjoys the outdoors. Last year, "Tweet" taped the annual summer episode in Boracay—a special treat for Joyce and her friends in the cast. This year, the show's summer special was taped in La Virginia Resort in Lipa, Batangas.

She dreams of continuing in Carnivorous, Camarines Sur—she'd really rather go beachcombing. But "Tweet" costar Derrick Monasterio made her curious about Europe. "He had lots of stories about his trip to Paris, with Banz Pineda and Sarah Lahbati. He said the Eiffel Tower was awesome. He gave me an Eiffel keychain as souvenir."

This summer, she and her family went to White Coral Beach in Bataan. "I got to touch a tortoise for the first time," she said. Then they drove up to Baguio. "It was tiring but fun," she said. "It's great that I got to spend more with my family."

Next year, she hopes to take them to Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro. "We've been somewhere other years so maybe there that's so peaceful and beautiful," she said.

This again, since she now lives in an urban resort, every day is a summer holiday for Joyce.

(joycemendoza@hotmail.com)

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Erwin G. Velarde

Chat with Kristen Stewart in a real English castle

"I FEEL good when I look in the mirror."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Andrea T. Vejvoda

Her mom, a script supervisor, and her dad, a TV producer, influenced her decision to be an actor

LOS ANGELES—Kristen Stewart, in a short, bright-colored dress, was a welcome sight in the immaculate old dramatic Cinderella West Sussex, UK. She did a fun-filled dance moves before settling down for this recent interview.

We thought that was a good sign—the usually shy actress disconcerting, looking very cool even in revenge and blue, inside a castle that was founded in 1067 and rebuilt between the 1470s and 1480s. In our previous interview with Kristen, she had indeed appeared confident.

Shy again

But we would not soon enough that Kristen was back to being shy. Maybe it was because the grand, massive museum didn't exactly invite easy natural talk. The setting was in keeping with the movie she was promoting—"Snow White and the Huntsman," the directorial debut of Rupert Sanders. In this second movie to be released about that fairy tale this year, Rupert benefits from the casting of Kristen and Chris Hemsworth in the title roles, and Charlize Theron as Queen Ravenna.

The interview did not lack for some amusing moments. The funniest phrase in the Snow White role: "Kristen starts out on the wrist, what's the fairest of them all," prompted questions about Kristen's "relationship with the mirror."

"I feel good when I look in the mirror," she said in mock seriousness.

Commercial

Beauty secrets? "I do much my face," she deadpanned. Her secret? "I use Proactiv." she quipped in a TV commercial every soul runs: "It keeps my skin so clean, it helped my skin so much when I was growing up. If you ever have acne, young lady, buy some Proactiv."

In separate interviews, both Chaffin and Ora told us that what struck them most about Kristen was her pure, obvious love for acting.

"I started wanting to act in movies because I wanted a job as it was," explained Kristen, whose mom is a script supervisor. Her dad is a TV producer.

She added: "My parents did it and I thought it was cool. It was second that I was getting to talk in character with the director and the other actors. I was dreaming for a long time even though I was really young. Suddenly, I was part of it. I was creating it that, having a good time and not thinking about it too much. A few projects changed my mind about it." She became a full-fledged actress.

Same clout

Kristen aims to be a director someday but, for now, she's happy and content being an actress. "I want to make movies, for sure," she admitted. "I haven't found the story I want to tell. I love being an actor so much right now. It's such a loaded period for me."

She's very grateful that a

CONT. H2

MTRCB reviews classification system to include R-16 rating

By Maricel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board may revise its classification system for movies to include an R-16 rating, according to chair Mary Grace Poe-Llamanzares.

There are five ratings for movies: General Audiences (G), which means all ages are admitted; PG-13, children below 13 years old should be accompanied by an adult; R-13, strictly for 13 years and older; R-16, strictly for 16 years and older; and X, not for public viewing.

"The gap between 13 and 18 is very wide and the awareness of a 16-year-old is different from a 13-year-old," Llamanzares

MTRCB, H2

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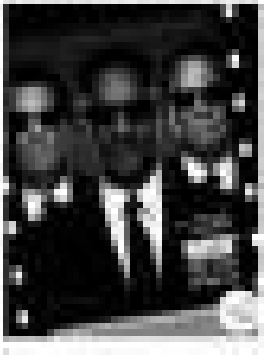

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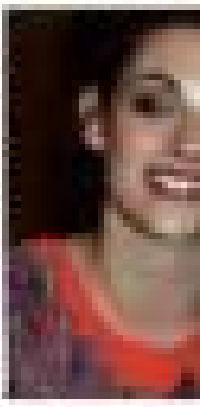
Chat with Kristen...



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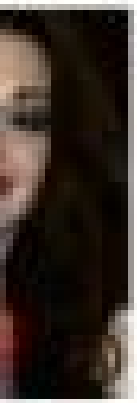

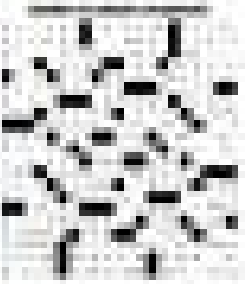

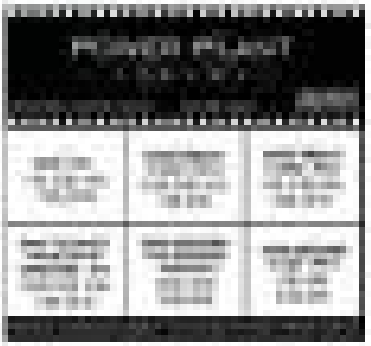
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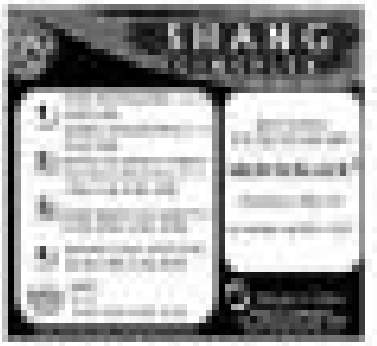
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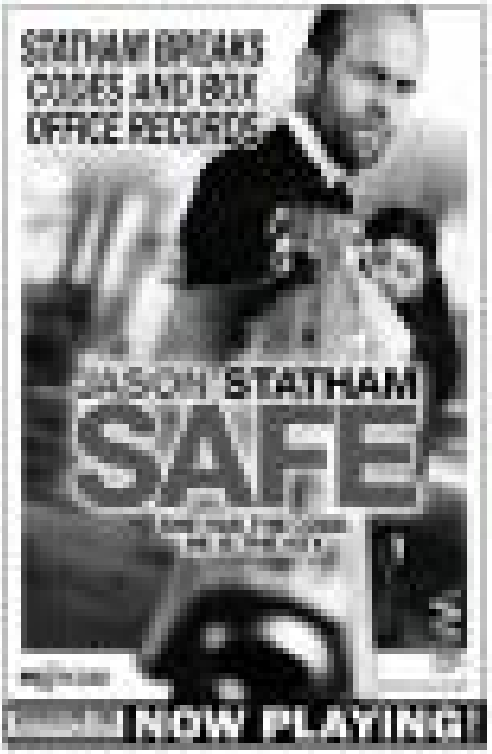
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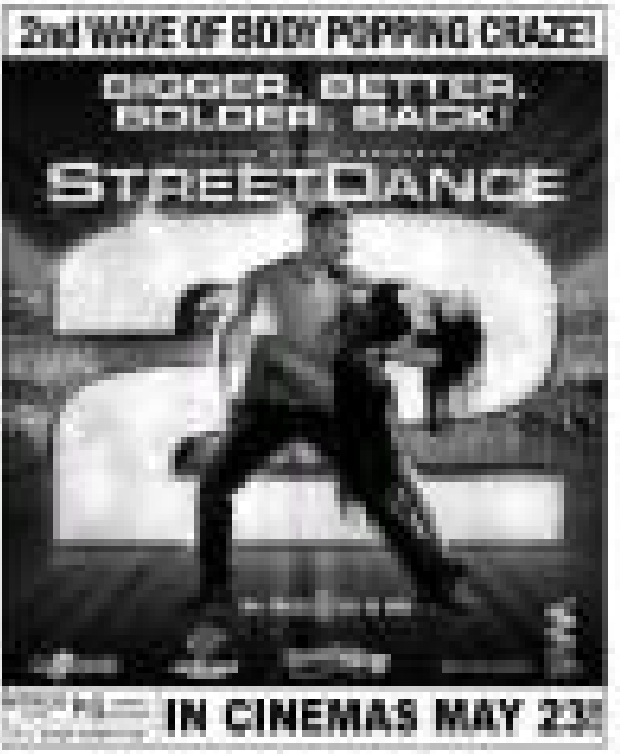
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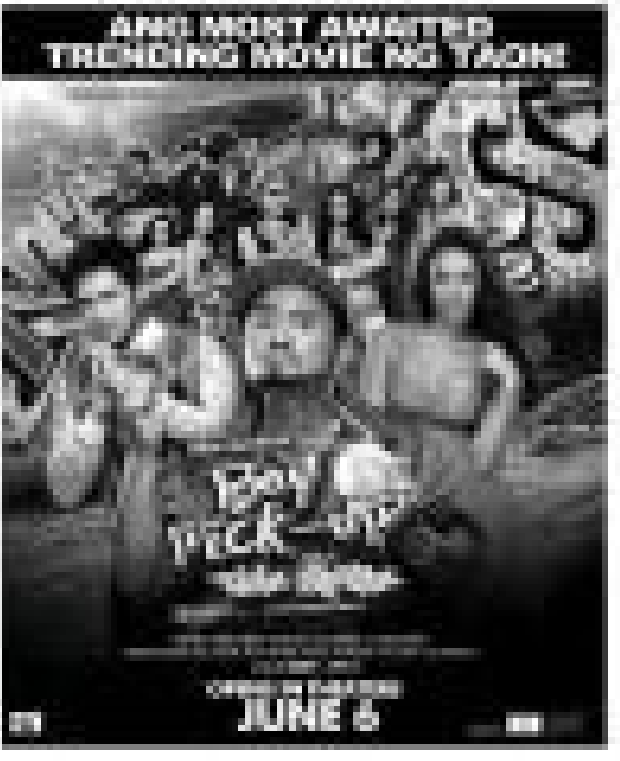
ANIS MOST AWAITED TRENDING MOVIE NO 1 ZAONE
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Gay partner traumatizes star

LLOYDIE is human, after all.

By the Entertainment Staff

IF GLAMOROUS Gay's behavior has been erratic of late, Manny Pacman Pacquiao's ill(?) delay.

According to a mole, GB was deeply scarred by the failed relationship. GS was shocked that BW had hooked-mouthed—not with other women, but with a beautiful transgender.

GS was inconsolable and ice-hearted.

Until, now GS carries a deep grudge—not only against absentee FP but other gorgeous gays.

Ballistic

The Jealous Wife of Controversial Personality has gone ballistic yet again.

Is it because CP is now being linked to becoming (tsarkey! And O! seems seriously smitten with Mr.—hitch when he was spotted abroad.

AP Mail

Proudly dual

Popular Celebrity keeps harping on misery points, promoting himself as no-casualistic.

At middle, however, pointed out that "pro-Pinoy" PC carries an American passport.

"Di PC have the right reasons for avoiding of dual citizenship? For starters, PC is a "star" in the country and not in Hollywood."

RUSHES

Rejected

High-Profile Celebrity's pet project has been languishing in limbo for quite a while.

Finally, a Top Company picked up the project.

Alas, taken the stores saw the product, they were dismayed and ordered a re-edit, pronto.

That's the reason that the project's launch was postponed more than once.

Not-so-secret lovers

Proxy Starlet insists she is not going steady with Handsome Actor.

But there were sightings of DS in the building of WK's condo, where, a source says, she has been spending an inordinate amount of time.

Maybe DS gets confused, juggling the women in her life? Apparently not.

DS was previously involved with Beautiful Casino, who denied the affair. How quickly DS bounced back with PS!

Notorious

Show biz insider is reportedly in hiding after Sunday items filled an emails cues.

Assuming a new identity, SI is working behind the scenes in a fledgling studio.

Turned out, SI had earlier scammed former friend and was able to buy a new car.

Now SI is living in constant fear of land-ing in jail.

KARYLLE: Looking fresh

Top of Bandera

The top show his news in the buy-one tabloid Bandera (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

+ Sawang-sawa na raw sa pagiging mahirap ni Jhaina Intsiaulayan si John Lloyd dahil sa sikat at bilyar Cho San (Ha Jada si Llaydie.)

+ Crystal nagmumukmuk kay Rayver na baldao siya (Ahemmng ayaang mag-buksan?)

+ Di ba nadaang kay Chantay umaawag ang 'bulls' (Why are we not surprised? Besides, he got what he wanted—award,)

+ Di ba nandamdamdamak na kasi ang dating kanyon sa Pilipinas ilili pa'ko ngo, Di-Enkanto pala [sic?]

+ Bachang, boo 'macrabonan' na si Maja Salvador (Aaaayan, dreams?!)

+ Sonia Alonzo sabi pa'yo kaka 3 na umuk (Salamat! There's no reason for bashing like a monster.)

+ Sian Lim cannot speak one word pero sa kin chismisan? Expat lang!)

+ Donna muling kinbala alala na pakitid-a, hindi raw sumbo. (Ang hindi bilang, si mal'am Lucy na lang.)

+ Kaya pala nagaaa

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Applicants MUST possess the following MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Not less than forty-five (45) years old and minimum five (5) years service tenure of application for the position;
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4. Proven track record as administrator (President, Vice-President, Dean, Campus Administrator, Director), preferably in the academe, whether in public or private HEIs, for at least five (5) years;
5. Applicants must not have been convicted of any administrative offenses or of any crime involving moral turpitude, wherein the penalty is more than six (6) months;
6. Incumbent Presidents of other SUCs, whose term is set to expire within six (6) months prior to the Search Process, shall not be allowed to file/submit his/her application for the vacant position/ post.

NOTE: An applicant who does not meet any of the above mentioned minimum qualifications and cannot submit supporting documents pertinent to these minimum qualifications shall be disqualified from the Search.

Interested applicants must submit the following DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Formal Application Letter address to: **Hon. Pamela B. Licaros, Ph.D.** Chair, Commission on Higher Education 4th Flr. HEDC Building, C.P. Garcia Avenue, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV), signed under oath;
3. Certified true copy of transcripts of evaluation of records;
4. Photocopies of Diploma, Certificate of Employment from the following government agencies, obtained not more than three (3) months from the date of filing of the application, indicating applicant has no pending administrative and/or criminal cases:
   a. Civil Service Commission (CSC);
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   c. Ombudsman (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao (OMB);
   d. Authorized Company where the applicant is presently employed.
5. NSO- authenticated Birth Certificate;
6. Medical Certificate or Physical Fitness issued by a government physician who is licensed (for senior citizen/person with disability, applicant is required to submit his medical certificate);
7. Result of Neuro-psychiatric Examination conducted by a government physician who is certified by the Department of Health (DOH) as a specialist in psychiatric, physician and;
8. Duly accomplished CSC Form 212, notarized under oath.

Documentary requirements must be submitted in seven (7) hard copies, one (1) soft copy/ies, on CD, both in certified photocopies on or before June 15, 2012 to the office of the following:

Hon. Pamela B. Licaros, Ph.D. or **Dr. Leon E. Tadeo**
HEDC Chairperson Chair, ASC Search Committee for Presidency
4th Floor, HEDC Building, C.P. Garcia Ave. Comm. Sec. Hearings, Senate Bldg.
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- Resident of Laguna or willing to relocate near the factory

Qualified applicants may submit their comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture to:

P.O. Box 3481 MCPO, 1070 Makati City or
Email: [redacted]

[redacted]

Cebu Daily News is a multimedium English language general interest newspaper based in Cebu City.
The community paper belongs to the INQUIRER Group led by The Philippine Daily Inquirer and circulates in the Visayas.

COPY EDITOR

- A journalism graduate or any equivalent course
- High written English proficiency
- Integrity and ethical conduct
- Ability to work under pressure of daily deadlines
- At least two (2) years experience in a news organization
- Has sales reading habits and an appetite for current events and issues
- Critical thinking ability, initiative and creativity
- Available to work in the evening
- Layout and page design skills preferred

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- College graduate preferably Journalism, Mass Communication or any related courses
- High written English proficiency
- Has attention to details and has accountabilities capacity in meeting deadlines
- With at least two (2) year experience in a news organization
- Has sales reading habits and an appetite for current events and issues
- Able to communicate well with different people in a fast-paced working environment
- Creative and can suggest story ideas & pathways in editorial brainstorming

Interested applicants may send their resumes to: [redacted]

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CRS

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is an American relief and development NGO created in 1943 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to assist the poor and disadvantaged overseas, with programs in over 90 countries. Present in Philippines since 1949, CRS' mission statement calls on the agency to alleviate human suffering, advance integral human development, and foster charity and justice in the world. All of its programs assist persons in the basis of need, regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality. CRS Philippines Program currently manages projects in agriculture, disaster response management, peace and reconciliation, and emergency response. Our offices are located in Manila, Davao, and Cagayan de Oro. CRS offers competitive salary and benefits package.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

CRS/Philippine Program is seeking experienced and dynamic individuals with the following general qualifications:

- Excellent communication skills (oral and written) in English, especially report writing
- Experience working as part of a multi-disciplinary technical team
- Skills: Active listening, active learning, complex problem-solving, critical thinking, service orientation, systems evaluation, judgment and decision making, monitoring
- Technology: Microsoft Office 2003/2007
- Knowledge: County management and donor regulations

M&E OFFICER - EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND CAPACITY BUILDING (MANILA)

The position will provide M&E support as part of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Training project to be rolled out to 10 partner organizations. During disasters, the M&E Officer will provide support to emergency response projects, including needs assessments, project design, monitoring systems, and reporting. Position requires up to 50% travel with ability to deploy rapidly to emergency field settings.

- Bachelor's degree. Masters degree is desirable.
- Minimum of three (3) years experience working with NGOs or government agencies in planning or implementation of emergency response and disaster risk reduction training experience desired.
- Strong analytical skills, both in qualitative/quantitative approaches.
- Ability to work with stakeholders on multiple levels including non-government organizations, donors, media groups, religious groups (Catholic, Muslim, etc.), and government units.
- Experience on project planning, reporting, M&E methods and participatory approaches.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE OFFICER (MANILA)

The position will provide operational support during emergency response during disasters throughout the country for CRS and local partner organizations. Position requires up to 50% travel with ability to deploy rapidly to emergency field settings.

- Minimum of three (3) years experience working with NGOs or government agencies in planning and implementation of emergency response, disaster risk reduction, training experience desired.
- Ability to work with stakeholders on multiple levels including non-government organizations, donors, media groups, religious groups (Catholic, Muslim, etc.), and government units.
- Strong skills in developing organizational capacity including institutional strengthening, mentoring and coaching.
- Strong analytical skills, both in qualitative/quantitative approaches.
- Experience in project planning, reporting, and participatory approaches.
- Working knowledge of Sphere standards.

FINANCE OFFICER (DAVAO)

The position primarily deals with general accounting, fund management, technical assistance to NGO partners and financial audit. Position requires 25% of travel time throughout the country.

- Graduate of bachelor's degree in Accountancy. CPA desired.
- Minimum of four (4) years experience in fund accounting, general accounting and budget management.
- Knowledgeable of computerized accounting system, preferably SUN systems or equivalent.
- Strong skills in assessing and developing partner capacity including institutional strengthening, mentoring and coaching.
- Mature disposition and ability to appropriately manage sensitive situations.

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER (MANILA or DAVAO)

The Human Resources Officer will provide support services in recruitment, staff development, employee benefits, and performance management for offices in Manila and Davao. Position requires at least 25% travel throughout the country and perhaps abroad.

- Bachelors Degree in Administration, Psychology/Behavioral Sciences. Masters preferred.
- HR Officer or similar position for at least 5 years in professional environment.
- Experience managing employee information and attention to detail.
- Skills in training facilitation.
- Highly organized and possesses an attitude of service and support.

Interested candidates should send their curriculum vitae and cover letter, in English before June 1, 2012 to: ph_hr@crs.org

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- A graduate of any 4 year course preferably related to business management or Marketing
- Self-driven, Results oriented and Team player
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ACCOUNTANT

- Male or Female not more than 35 years old.
- Preferably a CPA, Must have at least 5 years' experience in the related field.
- Knowledge in government regulations' requirements an advantage.
- Ability to multi-task, work under pressure and meet deadlines required.
- Organized, Detail oriented, Hard worker, Fast learner and willing to work beyond office hours

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To support our continued growth in Asia, we are looking for dynamic individuals with experience in Systematics Applications (DA, RM, IM, ST, ALS and CL) and Payment Applications to fill the following positions:

Systematics Application Manager

Your role is to oversee client Business Are Lineal (BAL) organization and manage a team of Technical/Analysts to deliver high levels of customer service to achieve expected performance standards. You will also be responsible to review and formulate changes in the BAL procedures with the view to improve overall performance and to ensure effective allocation of resources to clients against service levels while maintaining client satisfaction.

Key Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or relevant disciplines, training or work experience
- 10 years and above of experience in application development and project management
- Experience in managing Systematics implementation or upgrade projects is a definite advantage
- Strong interpersonal, communication and engagement skills

Systematics Team Lead

You will report to the Application Manager and will manage a small team of Technical Analysts to meet BAU service targets. You are viewed as the Subject Matter Expert within your domain of expertise with the ability to provide design solutions to application gaps and technical issues. In addition, you will manage work load assignments of Technical Analysts, analyze and modify application systems including coding, testing and debugging.

Key Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or relevant disciplines, training or work experience
- 8 years and above of domain experience in Systematics applications on DA, RM, IM, ST, ALS or CL
- Strong communication and supervisory skills

Systematics Technical Analysts

You will be responsible to perform development work within your domain expertise to support business requirements including gap analysis, design, coding, testing and debugging. In addition, you will also provide production support in a timely manner to meet service targets.

Key Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or relevant disciplines, training or work experience
- 3 years and above of domain experience in Systematics application on DA, RM, IM, ST, ALS or CL. Applicant for DA position is preferred to have IBM Mainframe Assembler programming experience
- Possess strong communication skills

Connex Service Delivery Manager

You will be responsible for the daily operations of processing functions and maintenance of the processing infrastructure for an ATM Switch (CONNEX) in a large Philippine financial institution. In addition, you will also ensure service level agreements are met in support of clients' and company's mission critical business requirements.

Key Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree or the equivalent combination of education, training and work experience
- Several years of experience in managing similar operations for a financial ATM Switch and related services in a financial institution. Ideally on a Tandem platform/ HP Non-Stop operating environment. Experience with Connex would be ideal or similar switch like BASE24
- Knowledge of processing administration, processing activities and controls, project management methods and techniques
- Proficiency in client communication and escalation management
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills to technical and non-technical audiences of various levels in the organization (e.g. executive, management, individual contributors)
- Proficiency to supervise, lead and manage effectively staff members

Well-qualified applicants are invited to email your detailed resume stating current and expected salaries no later than 8 June 2012 to asia.pacific.hr@fisglobal.com. Please indicate position applied in the subject matter. We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

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Preferably BS Accountancy Graduate or any related courses

Please bring the following: Resume, 2X2 Colored Picture, NBI/Police Clearance, PRC ID, Board Rating, Board Certificate, Transcript of Records, and Diploma. Kindly submit your requirements to Human Resource Department, Ground Floor, Main Building. For inquiries, you may contact 711-4141 loc.511 and look for Mr. Richard Cuadrera or you may email your resume at cghpersonnel@yahoo.com.ph

WORKING PEOPLE

Editor Jesse Francis R. Mallocillo

Misplaced sympathy for the minimum wage earners

WAGES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN a delicate issue. Minimum wage determination for Ilocos, as it should be aptly called) in the Philippines is more of a political than scientific exercise. As I write this, the NCR wage board has just approved a new wage order. The new minimum wage is raised to P426 per day (up by P22) plus COLA of P30, effective 15 days after publication, and another P10 COLA on November 1, 2012. As usual, the resulting decision passed through a 4-3 vote by the wage board, primarily considered vendors of the purchasing power, as more disregard for position.

Concept of wages

During the glory days of the Roman Empire, soldiers were paid with salt (a precious commodity in Julius Caesar's time) for their services. Hence, the term "salary" as compensation for services.

In most businesses, the early concept of salaries and wages remain the same today—that of payment for services rendered. Where there is no service rendered, there should be no pay—also known as the "no work, no pay" concept acceptable and accepted by both labor and management. Where more valuable services are rendered, higher pay is usually commensurate.

Pay is not a motivator. People do not clock in or operate machines because of pay. There are other pressing reasons why some employees are more motivated than others. Usually, the reason is more intrinsic to the job—interesting work, support from peers/superiors, recognition, promotion, etc. If you ask Frederic Herzberg, pay is already a hygiene factor, not a motivator. The presence of good pay does not motivate. Its absence, however, will tend to de-motivate.

The greatest de-motivator of all is to give the same pay across the board. When you pay people assigned to the same job/the same level of pay, you tend to give a strong assurance. Yes, they may be working in different positions or departments. You'll get paid the same as the laggards and the underdogs anyway." So, if you want to use pay to "motivate" your people, start discriminating and differentiating pay according to performance or other factors.

Of course, you differentiate pay according to several Ps - position, performance, person, and potential. You will need several measures and measures for each of these Ps. (I dabble in this, so contact me if you have pay problems.)

The minimum wage

Ideally, the level of wages, just like the prices of commodities, must be determined by the market. The market usually operates by the law of demand and supply. Ironically, wages are highest in the Philippines when, despite being a labor surplus economy. In other countries where wages are high, demand often outpaces supply.

Why are wages difficult or "artificial" in the Philippines? Government intervenes with the market in fixing minimum wages. In the 1960's, Republic Act 6727 created the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Boards (RTWPB) to set minimum wages per region. As of today, the Philippines has more than 1,000 versions of the minimum wage. More bad.

According National Wages and Productivity Commission Executive Director Cristeta Esguerra El, determining the minimum wage "shall be rooted in the basic concept of providing workers with safety net protection against unduly low wages from minimum wage rates shall therefore be confined as much as possible to protecting the lowest paid workers from the vagaries of the labor market." On one hand, minimum wages are for the unskilled or non-existent in the workplace are meant, to put it bluntly, "to keep body and soul together." It is also a protection for workers against "rent-seeking" employers.

If minimum wages are maintained at a fairly low level, entrepreneurs and businessmen will tend to avail of the services of the unskilled and inexperienced workers. Hence, more employment. DOLE Secretary Ernesto Verzola Leogardo warns, "once minimum wages are raised, but beyond the salary are level, workers with less skills or education would have little chance to compete for jobs against more skilled and empower workers in finding employment in the formal wage sector."

One of the many unintended consequences of an unusually high minimum wage is the inducing incapacity of the many unskilled and inexperienced workers to find suitable employment. Businessmen will naturally hire the more skilled workers who can do "multi-tasking", instead of paying P426 per day. Unskilled jobs roughly P328 because of benefits. Of hobbies and other forms of pay is a helper in the factory or store.

Three part five days, I have asked around. If businessmen (even Cebuan members) are willing to pay P300 per day for unskilled labor, if we have to find one willing, even if cheap person.

Balance in interests

Once per we wrong. I am in favor of fair and competitive wages. However, as Director Cristeta Esguerra El, determining the minimum wage "shall be rooted in the basic concept of providing workers with safety net protection against unduly low wages.

Sweet spot

The Philippines today is in a sweet spot. It can now attract manufacturers who realize that it is no longer a cheap location and Thailand has not fully recovered from calamity. Our minimum wages are already practically the highest in the region (after taking into account minimum wages beyond reasonable levels), so we just did, we could lose by default to the opportunity to create more jobs for the 2.9 million jobless and 7.1 million underemployed Filipinos.

Misplaced sympathy

Only 2.2 million workers receive minimum wages today. They are already employed. It seems that labor leaders and some policy makers have their priorities wrong. They don't see that roughly 29 million jobless and underemployed Filipinos need more priority help and protection. Even if our minimum wages are raised, inflation will likely follow and will hit every body—including the 38 million workers in both formal and informal sectors who will not receive wage adjustments.

Creative solutions

Whenever commodity prices go up, policy makers tend to make a knee-jerk reaction by increasing the wages. Why can't we attack the problems of increasing commodity prices instead of adopting more inflationary solutions that a wage increase is? When Germany was on the verge of losing many jobs, the government gave businessmen subsidies for workers to keep their jobs.

This is a time when all sectors must work together to create more jobs for the Filipinos. Government must have the guts in amending policy reforms to entice both Filipino and foreign investors to do business in the Philippines. The academe must revise their curriculum to produce graduates that are really needed by industry in the years to come. Most jobs today don't require college education. Let's encourage more Filipinos to have more vocational-technical education to prepare them for immediate employment. Let's encourage entrepreneurship more than a mindset of corporate slavery—be your own boss. Let's reward save not penalize the working class.

Let's focus on job creation, post in every bill board in every town and province the number of new jobs created, and provide incentives in the new job creators. Five year exchange college or high school graduates, as evidence, to change their mindset and go into a small business, we don't have to rely on foreign direct investments (FDI) to create one million jobs per year.

By first, let's displease our minds. Our problem is not low wages for the already employed. The bigger problems are the lacking months that depend we 2.9 million unemployed and 15 million underemployed Filipinos. Proponents of unreasonable minimum wage increases should be held accountable for failure.

(Ernie writes in various capacities at the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) and the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and other professional and non-governmental organizations (PNGOs). In 2013, he was given recognition in Diplomatic Republication against LBPHR and retired "Most Outstanding Columnist of the Year" (for his Sunday Inquirer column) by PMAP where he was President in 2009. He is the President and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a business consulting firm. His new books, "Life's Big Lessons" and "Life's Big Lies" are now available at book stores. He can be reached at ernie_ceo@yahoo.com)

John 14:27A,B
"Peace, peace, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you."

Consolation at work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

AS JESUS ASCENDED TO THE FATHER IN HEAVEN WHEN HE finished his mission of saving mankind from sin and eternal condemnation, he left behind the consolation of abundance. His power when we ask the Father anything in His name. For the workers, and anyone in need, this is a most amazing promise which can become a reality every time the workers invoke Jesus' name in his supplication to the Father. For the workers who are often frustrated by the lack of means to support their families in their valid and reasonable work-related requests, this good news is indeed a consolation.

But, besides giving the workers Jesus' consolation and assurance, Jesus also wants the workers to consume their closeness or union with the Lord. Especially since work could be so engrossing and could engage the worker's attention and awareness, leaving God's presence unattended. The reality of God's presence is the world, and at the workplace for that matter, sometimes is the last thing that the worker is aware of. The workers could focus on his work and keep himself united with Jesus at the same time. He does this by simply expressing his intention to do so either by his lips, through simple vocal prayers, or by his mind, thinking and remembering that Jesus and His loving presence. The worker who habitually invokes Jesus' name or makes Him present in the mind will certainly experience peace and quiet within, which will help him find the right solutions when work difficulties come his way. Work could be lighter while Jesus' presence is felt.

Every worker then who brings his faith in Jesus at work and habitually (like putting on a habit, or watching student) keeps alive the presence while working, will not only do his job well, but also draw in others the reality of the Providence of God who usually gives His children their daily bread, and the life after. Their everyone in the workplace would slowly but transformed into a believing and trusting workforce.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

In whose name?

By Teresa R. Yang, OCDS

IF YOU HAVE EVER BEEN SENT BY YOUR FIRM TO REPRESENT it, or to be its spokesperson in some conventions, you would know the importance of a name. Perhaps more than on any other occasion, you then become conscious that you are your company's face, its ambassador of goodwill, because you carry its name. You are responsible for upholding the company's integrity, its philosophy, vision, mission, and values. Equipped yourself by knowing thoroughly the moving spirit behind the corporation's name, and you assume yourself in harmonize with this spirit, because you are "living" your company's name. It means you are "living" your company's name. It means you are "living" your company's name. It means you are "living" your company's name. It means you are "living" your company's name.

Crucial in today's gospel are Jesus' words, "...in my name". The Father will give you whatever you ask IN MY NAME. It means we do not simply ask the Father and then like Jesus Christ, we ask Him in the name of Jesus. Jesus is the Father's only Son, and His perfect confidence because we have learned to love as He loves.

Cross generation management and communications

ONE CRUCIAL CHALLENGE IN business today is how to manage and communicate to people coming from different generations. It is an added dimension to managing diversity of race, culture and religion. Today one of the biggest challenges, for example, is business process outsourcing that has attracted all generations: baby boomers and people of Generations X, Y and Z.

Leaders and managers are asking very tough questions: How does one manage when you are a baby boomer managing people from different younger generations? Or more interesting is how the four line leaders who are coming from Generations X and Y can gain leadership maturity?

Should the policy prohibiting connecting to social networks at work be flexed to encourage supervisement and retention?

I have interesting experiences relating to my two children who came from 2 generations X and Y. What spiked my interest was how different they are but how different are their ways of thinking and working.

Understanding the baby boomer self

I am a baby boomer here in the Word. Baby boomers were born between 1946 and 1964. I checked out the web for a description. I can't help but agree to most of their characterizations.

Baby boomers were described as work centric, independent, goal oriented and competitive. Work centric means extremely job focused, hardworking and motivated by position, perks and prestige, valuing tenacity and stability, willing to work long hours to get the job done and keep the same job for a long time. They are self-reliant. They believe they can change the world. I remember hardly the aspects of my self-image as "Superwoman". They believe in rules and hierarchy and may experience stress adjusting to work place flexibility and may question younger generations' working remotely.

Rita Dutta Pangco

Generation X

I have two children who are generation Xers (born between 1965 and 1980). They tend to be individualistic, independent and self sufficient, valuing freedom and ability being micro-managed. My eldest daughter for example has worked in Italy and now works in Vietnam. She is multi savvy. I remember learning how to use the computer (considering that typewriters) from her. She is comfortable with all types of gadgets. She is flexible and adaptable with to change. She values work life balance. In fact in Vietnam, she is active in the church choir and the Filipino community. She is also the Chi Minh Philharmonic Orchestra. She enjoys travelling for leisure. She works to live rather than work to live.

Generation Y

Once again, I am fortunate to have two children who belong to generation Y. Generation Y were born between 1982 and 2001.

Let me talk of my Generation Y son. He is tech savvy, armed with all sorts of gadgets, plugged in 24 by 7. He prefers to learn through online virtual learning. He learns by learning how to converse in Spanish as well as learning to vocalize with an free app. He thought his wish meant to learn how to play the guitar. He achievements ordered, delivers good work while seeking personal and professional growth. He is team oriented and values the opinions of others. He likes appreciation and attention and seeks work life balance. He says is always eager to do other things after work.

Generation Z

Generation Z were born from 1991 onwards. I experience Generation Z in our younger employees who are extremely integrated and immersed in technology. They breathe the internet, and are constantly tuned into social networking and blogging. They are self-starters, meaning they can focus on the issues and ideas at hand. To focus on a single activity for a long time.

They are environmentally aware. They possess massive amounts of information quickly and can handle mentally demanding jobs. They have typically done several years apart and are online consumers.

Understanding generations

Understanding different generations matter if a leader is to achieve maximum results from them. Not to understand is to be surprised or even frustrated not knowing whether one is communicating or not. Our experiences and appreciating up have shaped us to think that what we know as the way is the right way. How does one then reach out to other generations.

I outlined a list of the lessons we learned communicating in cross cultural situations apply

Management tips

One, is to try to be one with the person of a different generation, showing respect, trying to understand where they are coming from. This can range from how dressed, media they views about people and issues. One author suggests we put ourselves to their shoes, understanding what excites and frustrates them, appreciating how they spend a typical day.

Two, is to recognize the differences and try to bridge them. Gain an appreciation where each generation is coming from and see life conflicts may arise. Listen unconditionally and suspend judgment even if their view is different from yours. Try to find the gem of an idea you like and build on what is common versus focusing on what is different and avoid quick polarizing positions.

Three, use differences in the description in generation ref. Don't simply generalize. Generalizations are stereotypes for action. You are there as guidelines in developing understanding, but are in form biases or to prescribe it to a person's actions. Use the groups' characteristics as a starting point.

Four, in many cases, differences may arise not necessarily from age alone but can come from other factors like nationality, education, sex, gender or religion.

Five, approach people from different generations with curiosity and deep interest. Each generation has its strengths and opportunities to contribute to each to. How many knows I have learned from my children. How to write a blog, how to find material in the internet and how to keep in touch with them through the web, how to Facebook and on Linked In to maintain a few.

Fifth, relax and don't be too anxious. Appreciate and communicate with those of other generations because you share a common humanity. It maybe what we need you work pointing up is that what we know as the way is the right way. How does one then reach out to other generations.

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(For additional information please email author at rdpangco@yahoo.com.ph or at rdpangco@yahoo.com)

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ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
(Team Member)

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"Evaluates received and verified invoice for goods and services"
"Performs waiting and matching invoices"
"Resolves invoice discrepancies and can invoices up for payment"
"Ensures proceed backup reports after data entry"
"Prepare and process accounts payable checks, transfers and payments"
"Responsible monthly reports and reconciliation of payments"
"Monitor accounts to ensure payments are up to date"
"Correspond with vendors and respond to inquiries"

Job Requirements:
"Bachelor's Degree Degree in Accounting or Finance"
"Good knowledge of Account Payable, account receivable and maintaining general ledgers"
"2 years of high volume financial and/or operations experience processing invoices, dealing with private vendors and reconciling various accounts"
"Experience handling high volume of information

GENERAL LEDGER
(Team Member)

Job Responsibilities:
"Ensures the agreed scope of services of General Ledger ("GL") accrual reconciliation, cash management, and other necessary completions of monthly management and financial reporting"
"Develops, implement and monitor a system of controls and balances including in the GL services within the Shared Services Center"
"Involve in updating annual budget and enhancing the financial systems"
"Other tasks, not limited to, monthly GL accounts reconciliation, cash management, accurate and timely completion of monthly management and financial reporting"

Job Requirements:
"Bachelor/College Degree in Accounting or Finance"
"Good knowledge of general ledgers. Experience in shipping company is an advantage"
"Minimum of 2 years in the same capacity handling high volume financial and/or operations experience handling reconciliation of balance sheet items. Preferably with experience in using [illegible]"
"Demonstrate authority and thorough understanding of GL function and related services"

TRAINING SUPERVISOR

Job Responsibilities:
"Will be responsible for the Human Elements project for Thome Group.
"Ensures proper coordination of information between ship visors personnel, vessels, training providers and crew with regards to the Thome Human Element Project.
"Maintains and updates Thome Human Element plans and execution of planned activities.
"Verifies vessel compliance with project.
"Designs and prepares training tools for Maritime Crew Resource Management (MCRM).
"Manages and/or conducts MCRM training courses and onboard Human Element based activities which includes, but is not limited to, initiating changes and enhancements as well as monitoring.
"Prepares a monthly status of the Thome Human Element Roadshow.
"Conducts surveys in relation to the Human Element Project as needed, analyses the data gathered and presents [illegible] feedback to the [illegible]
"Carries out all other tasks related to MCRM and the [illegible]

Job Requirements:
"Preferably graduate of Bachelor's Degree
in a Maritime field
"Onboard experience [illegible]
"Proficient in the [illegible]
"Strong [illegible]

TECHNICAL PURCHASER
(Team Member)

Job Responsibilities:
"Shall handle timely sending of inquiries, summarizing of quotations for review and approval, and placing of orders.
"Ensure timely and economical supply of spare parts.
"Monitor the vessel rotation and coordinate with forwarders and agents for timely delivery of orders.
"Shall handle all crew vessels on replacement schedule.
"Shall perform invoice matching, identification of discrepancies and provides possible solutions to facilitate timely payment processing.
"Coordinate accordingly with superintendents and attend to personnel regarding routine services and in arranging specialized services and repairs.
"Prepare documents and comply with all requirements necessary to execute the purchase process.

Job Requirements:
"Preferably College degree holder, preferably Industrial Engineering
"Minimum of 2 years in the same capacity. Preferably with experience in Marine / Ship Management
"Proficient in use of computer and basic office [illegible]
"Candidate must be keen to details and with sense of organizing and sorted priority

Salaries are competitive & market related. Suitably qualified individuals are invited to forward a comprehensive and updated Curriculum Vitae to [illegible]

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Oxfam is a vibrant global movement of passionate, dedicated people fighting poverty together. Doing amazing work, together. People power drives everything we do. From saving lives and developing projects that put poor people in charge of their lives and livelihoods, to campaigning for change that lasts. That's Oxfam in action. If you share this vision and commitment, then you will exactly what we are looking for:

Economic Justice Campaign Programmes Officer – Horizon will work closely with the Advocacy, Campaigns and Communications Programme Coordinator and the Public Campaigns Manager in the development and delivery of Oxfam's GROW campaign agenda and campaign plan. Key responsibilities of the post includes, but not limited to, lead on the implementation of planned country campaign activities on food justice, build alliances and collaborative ways of workings with a broad range of stakeholders, monitor, produce and compile reports and updates on the campaigns for partners, donors and Oxfam bodies, manage partnerships throughout the whole project cycle, manage grants to partners, develop and maintain good donor engagements, share and budget for movement/ policies projects and activities, support the learning process, and other related responsibilities.

Media and Communications Officer – the successful result will contribute to the development of gender-sensitive external and internal media and communications plans and materials and implement the same to support the country programme in general and the Advocacy and Campaigns programme in particular. He/she will take responsibility for providing efficient internal and external communications services to the country programme. Key responsibilities including but not limited to, development and implementation of media plans for the GROW campaign and other agreed campaigning/advocacy events of the country programme, writes and sends out regular monthly media and communications updates to country, regional and global offices, leads on gathering stories from our campaign and programme partners, acts as Oxfam's country programme 'brand champion', organize communications-related visits and tours for staff, partners, media and others, draw up budgets for all media and communications related projects and activities, conduct communications training support and workshops for Oxfam staff and partners, and other related responsibilities.

[illegible] can fulfill in the core aspects of our work and can lead to a position overseas or seek the next of the considerable challenge by sending an application letter clearly stating the position you are applying and your Curriculum Vitae (CV) to [illegible]

It is [illegible] application three women and people of indigenous background.

Closing date for receiving applications: **31 May 2012**

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Oxfam

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JUNE 2012 ENROLLMENT ONGOING

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- Filipino 2
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- English 3
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- Math 3 Statistics
- Math 4 Pre-Calculus
- Marketing 1 Principles of Mktg
- Marketing 2 Sales Mgt
- Marketing 3 Mktg Mgt
- Marketing 4 Advertising
- Humanities 1
- Management 1
- Entrepreneurship 1 and 2
- COM 1 Communication Theory
- IT 1
- IT 5/CS2
- IT 5/CS5
- IT 5/CS 8
- IT 7/CS 7
- Accounting 1 and 2
- Physical Education 1
- Physical Education 3

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CHEMONICS

Chemonics International is recruiting for an anticipated United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded project intended to contribute to improving peace and stability in Mindanao by promoting capable, transparent and accountable governance at the local level and ensuring greater civil society engagement through civic education, community empowerment and the creation and/or enhancement of mechanisms for greater citizen inclusivity and participation. Qualified candidates to Mindanao are encouraged to apply for the following positions:

- Peace-building, conflict resolution and conflict mitigation specialists
- Local governance and public administration specialists
- Civil society development specialists
- Specialists in the engagement of youth, women and vulnerable populations
- Grants Management specialists
- Financial Management specialists
- Training/Capacity Building specialists
- Monitoring & Evaluation specialists

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree in related field; advanced degree preferred
- Experience working on USAID or other donor-funded projects
- Experience in and knowledge of Mindanao, or similar conflict-affected environment
- Willingness to travel throughout Mindanao
- Fluency in English required; knowledge of local dialects preferred

TO APPLY: Qualified applicants must include a cover letter highlighting relevant experience, a current Curriculum Vitae (CV) including all language abilities, and a list of three references with contact information. Applications should be sent via email to **phil.engage@gmail.com** by 28 May 2012. Please type the position(s) for which you are applying in the subject line of the message.

We are looking for individuals who have a passion for making a difference in the lives of people around the world and demonstrate teamwork, versatility, and integrity in their work. Chemonics International (www.chemonics.com) is an international development consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., with offices worldwide.

A WELL ESTABLISHED COMPANY IS IN NEED OF:

PRODUCTION MANAGERS/SUPERVISORS

- Male 30 – 40 years old
- BSCE / BSME Graduate
- Minimum 3 yrs exp. in Aluminum Windows and Doors / Glass
- Knowledge in Manufacturing, Material Testing & Assembly of doors products.
- Knowledge in Production Safety Standards Procedure
- Has strong organizational, leadership, and management skills.
- Has ability to communicate and interact with a number of persons not in all levels.
- Has ability in decision making.

SALES ENGINEERS/ESTIMATORS

- B.S. Architecture/BSCE Graduate
- 4/5 Yrs exp. more than 25 years old
- Must be computer literate
- With driver's license

COST ESTIMATORS

- Civil/Industrial/Computer Engineer Graduate
- w/ experience in Aluminum/Windows and Doors Industry

CADD OPERATORS

- Preferably with experience in aluminum windows and doors / glass industry

Applicants may send their resumé at:
recruitment_bambang@yahoo.com.ph

JOB HIRING!

PATRIC LOOKING FOR:

[redacted]

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- Highly Motivated and proven track record
- Self-Leading personality
- Preferably residing within Pasig, Ortigas, Makati or Antipolo areas
- Willingness to assigned anywhere in Metro Manila
- Must know how to drive

Qualified applicants may send their resume with recent photo thru:

Email: sales@functionsmith.com / functi08@yahoo.com
Mail: 761 Aurora Street, Ortigas Industrial Estate Sold, Dela Paz, Pasig City
Contact Nos.: 645-2664 / 645-6961 / 645-4284 / 477-5464
Local: 121 or 122

[redacted]

Marketing Assistant/Coordinator

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

CLASSIFIEDS

Best Practices in HR Policies & Contracts

THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL BEST Practices (CGBP) will be holding a special HR2U-accredited seminar entitled, "Best Practices in Crafting HR Policies & Contracts" at the Eden Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City on Thursday and Friday, June 28 & 29, 2012.

As has often been said, people are the lifeblood of an organization. However, many companies, whether big or small, experience HR problems that often arise from ambiguities or defects in the contracts they have with their personnel. Business owners are especially vulnerable to such issues as, having sought up to the whim of growing their business, they are reliant unable to focus on labor matters or are unaware of the various issues regarding HR policies and contracts. Companies would also save costs on legal fees and the like, as well as avoid unnecessary friction or confusion among its personnel, if it ensured that its HR policies and contracts were sound and aligned with existing and updated Philippine labor laws.

This two-day seminar-oriented program is a definitive guide aimed at helping business owners, HR practitioners, decision-makers, lawyers, even laymen craft a working HR policy, code of discipline and employment contract. Other best practices to be discussed include those relating to independent labor contracting and outsourcing, seminar and CBA issues; and updates on the latest Supreme Court rulings (particularly significant decisions on dismissal cases and disciplinary actions). Moreover, there will be lectures on employment contracts and special contract clauses for rank-and-file and high-level positions; formulating menus of agreement; special templates that will simplify the creation of HR documents; how to enforce HR policies the right way; the proper method of terminating employment; and other matters of labor lawyers that HR practitioners need to know, in order to spot and avoiding pitfalls in handling personnel. There are some of the topics that are not normally discussed in other HR and labor law seminars. For more details, check www.cgbp.org or call Imelda Ines at (02) 642-7148/59; 556-0068/ 69, Cebu Ines at (032) 512-1586 to 87 and Baguio at (074) 423-3148.

The unique program is accredited by the Supreme Court, Lawyers accounting will get 18CLE credits.

This specially-designed program will teach you everything you need to know about HR practices straight from the best sources. Featured speakers and expert practitioners are Atty. Emelito De Guzman, senior partner and head of Labor and Employment of the top law firm Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Offices (ACCRALAW); and principal author of the 2008 book, Philippine Chapter of the Guide to Employment Law; Atty. Jose Ernesto Lee, Jr., formerly managing director of the Ayala Corporation and seconded to the current Ayala-owned subsidiaries to help in the corporate transformation of Globe Telecoms, MWSS, BPI, and SPI Family Bank, and expert HR practitioner Atty. Elsa Villasenor, author of the book A Guide to Valid Dismissal of Employees. He has also authored 19 other best-selling books including, Guide on Employee Compensation and Benefits vol. 1 & 2; Guide on Wage Order & Minimum Wage; Guide on Mga Kasiyahan ng Mga OFWs, HR memo and Contracts.

Interested participants are encouraged to send of the early bird and group discounts. This seminar comes in a limited-seats-only program. Pre-registration is required.

Buhay OFW Tackles Illegal Recruitment Scams

IN HER EFFORTS TO inform and protect the public, broadcaster and civic maven Marissa Del Mar tackles the issue of the growing number of recruitment scams nationwide on the May 19 episode of her public service program dedicated to OFWs entitled "Buhay OFW" live on its 3rd season, the hour-long program airs on TV5's news channel Aksyon TV 41.

Recent statistics show there is still a sizable number of Filipinos who prefer to work abroad for better pay. Del Mar discusses the illegal recruitment issue with the Licensing and Regulation Officer of Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) through Atty. Melchor B. Diocos (Diocos IV) who talks about how to spot and avoid illegal recruiters and migration scams as well as illegal recruiters. Diocos also shares the requirements and responsibilities of a reliable recruitment agency.

One of the countries being sought out by Filipinos for work opportunities is Singapore. In "Tsismis Abroad, Sopatods," Buhay OFW tackles the superstitions, the language and customary traits and beliefs of Singaporeans towards migrant professional workers. The segment also takes a look at Singapore's efficient transportation system.

"OFW to Home"Kumusta Sheltesa Alexis Magsino at New York City, USA who resides as its assistant to the Vice President and Director for Field Operations of Asbestos Corporation of America. She shares her life living and surviving in the business capital of the world.

Cher Rapsid Marissa Del Mar brings us to witness the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) 30thAnniversary highlights which includes the ribbon-cutting of the newly-installed gym and conference room led by OWWA Administrator Carmelita S. Dimzon and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz. A photo exhibit of OWWA 30 years of dedicated service to the Filipino people was also unveiled.

Also featured on the episode is the National Bead Relate Association's (NBRA) 1st Chapter Conference and Trade Exhibit held in San Fabian, Pangasinan. The event was led by Buhay OFW host and NBRA national president Ms. Marissa Del Mar with NBRA founder and Chairman Jose V. Mendiola. The landmark event was fully supported by the San Fabian Philippine Tourism Authority and San Fabian City Mayor Irene G. Libiran. More than a hundred delegates from Region 1, 2, 3 and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) took part in the two day conference of learning, sharing and bonding.

"Buhay OFW" airs every Saturday, 11:11PM on Aksyon TV 41. Log on www.newsinfo.inquirer.net for more information on Marissa Del Mar's faithful community service to her countrymen here and abroad.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

BUSINESS DEALS

BUSINESSES

SPOT SALES

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CUBAO

HOUSE & LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

LOAN & MORTGAGE

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

HOUSE

LOT

APARTMENT

ROOM & BOARD

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE/RENT

FACTORY/WHSE

MEMORIAL LOT

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

WANTED TO BUY

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

The following properties were acquired through a judgment based on a compromise agreement approved by the Regional Trial Court of Mandaluyong City. The Order has attained finality and the judgment creditor wishes to liquidate and sell the properties to interested buyers. The prices indicated are subject to change without notice. Interested parties may contact Ms. Nenita Catalang of the DAMADA, WVD & TAN law office at (632) 401-1126 to 28 or nvt@pinoylaw.com.ph.

BATANGAS

1. Lian, Batangas – 7 contiguous titled lots measuring a total of 23.34 hectares with over 300 mango trees; P56,571,682.
2. Calatagan, Batangas – 2 contiguous titled lots measuring a total of 3.14 hectares with over 150 mango trees; P5,345,210.

CAVITE

1. South Ridge Estates, Tagaytay City – 2 adjacent titled vacant lots measuring 280 sq.m. each; P1,742,500 for each lot.
2. Metrogate Tagaytay Estates, Tagaytay City – 2 adjacent titled vacant lots measuring 160 and 252 sq.m.; P1,870,000 and P1,319,750 respectively.
3. Metrogate 2, Dasmariñas, Cavite – 5 adjacent titled vacant lots measuring 120 sq.m. each; P467,500 each.
4. Royal Tagaytay Estates, Alfonso, Cavite – 1 titled vacant lot measuring 300 sq.m.; P1,440,000.
5. Bilang, Cavite – 939 sq.m. lot w/ 2-story 10 dr. apartment along J. Rizal Street (near the corner of Kap. Pepe Street); P5,810,000.
6. Bilang, Cavite -330 sq.m. lot w/ 2-story 6 dr. apartment along Kap. Pepe Street (near the corner of J.Rizal St.); P2,550,000.00.
7. Bilang, Cavite – 1197 sq.m lot along Aguinaldo Highway, next to the Sacred Heart Villa School; Php4,526,250

For more information, please call or visit the Public Assets Disposal Unit, 2nd Floor, PNB – Mandaluyong Branch, Shaw Blvd. cor. Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. Tel. No. 8-570-3000 loc. 3000 or 3001.

PNB

Maynilad

Invitation for Prequalification

Country :	Philippines
Project :	Manila Wastewater Management Project
Financing :	World Bank
Work(s) :	Combined Sewage Interceptor System for Pasay Sewage Treatment Plant
Sector :	Construction
Loan/Credit Number :	Project ID: P113944
Contract/Bid Number :	Invitation for Prequalification, PQ-MWWP-12-02-2A

This invitation for prequalification follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business No. 113944 of June 2011 on line.

The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. has applied for a loan from the International Bank Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of the Manila Wastewater Management Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the MWWP-12-02A-Proposed Combined Sewerage Interceptor System for Pasay STP under 2011 Metro Manila Wastewater Management Project. The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for the above-mentioned project. It is expected that invitations for bid will be made in September 2012.

Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, January 2011, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document at the Contracts Management Program Management Office of Maynilad Water Services, Inc. from 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday to Friday. A complete set of the prequalification document in English may be purchased by interested Applicants on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Php1,000.00) or TWENTY THREE US DOLLARS (US$23).

Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below on or before 12:00 noon of 04 July 2012, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Manila Wastewater Management Project-Proposed Combined Interceptor System for Pasay Sewage Treatment Plant PQ-MWWP-12-02A."

Applicants are encouraged to attend the prequalification meeting/orientation that will be conducted on 05 June 2012, 9:00AM at Maynilad Water Services, Inc. office located on MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines.

Contact:	Maynilad Water Services, Inc. Attn: Yolanda C. Lucas Head, Program Management 2nd Floor, PNI – Mandaluyong Office MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City Philippines 1105 Tel. (63 2) 981-2418

YOLANDA C. LUCAS
Head, Program Management

CUBAO

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RUSH!

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WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

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CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

HOUSE

LOT

APARTMENT

ROOM & BOARD

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE/RENT

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CAR LOAN

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BUY - SELL - TRADE ROLEX LOUIS VUITTON

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that MONPILADO PHILIPPINE PEWTER CORPORATION with office address at Km 57, 3rd Floor Lanuza Family Bldg., Commercial Ave., Making Business Park, Barrio Aplaya, Mambaling, Cebu City is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as a New Enterprise. They intend to engage in the manufacture of pewter products.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL M. CASAYURAN
Director
Investment and Service Industries Department

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Brgy. Ins., Q.C. Area
Office Address Within Area
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CONSTRUCTION WORKS
Call 0917-5-777-888

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Diamond, Gold & Others
(0917) 335-7354
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FOR SALE
2008 Nissan Frontier 2.7 Diesel
MT Double Cab (Acquired New)
Body Type: Pick-up
Color: Polar White
Seating Capacity: 5
Transmission: Manual
Interior Upholstery: Fabric
Description: Factory-Built-In
Other Specifications: With Factory Audio Setup
Engine Displacement (cc): 2,488
Fuel Type: Diesel
Factory-Built-In
For inquiries, please call at
819-5732 or 819-6019

LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice

need a job?

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF LAND SURVEYING SERVICES FOR LANDHOLDINGS OF HACIENDA LUISITA

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), utilizing its continuing appropriation under the General Appropriations Act of 2011, intends to apply the amount of Twenty One Million Pesos (Php 21,000,000.00) being the approved Budget for the Contracts/ABC to the procurement of land surveying services for landholdings of Hacienda Luisita.

2. The DAR now calls for the submission of Expression of Interest (EOI), together with the eligibility, technical and financial documents for the procurement of land surveying services for landholdings of Hacienda Luisita. Interested land surveying firms may submit their documents on or before 6 June 2012 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM at the PARPO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRA) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to aliens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

4. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals and the criteria and rating system for the evaluation in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB) Clause 29.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available to interested Bidders starting **17 May 2012** (Thursday). It may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (**www.philgeps.net**) and the website of the Procuring Entity (**www.dar.gov.ph**). Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php5,000.00) for the set of bidding Documents, not later than the deadline for submission of their bids.

The DAR-BAC will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** on **22 May 2012** (Tuesday) as the following schedules which shall be open to all interested parties. Please be advised that only prospective bidders who have paid the non-refundable fee prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference will be allowed to participate in the conference. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each prospective bidder will be allowed due to space limitations.

ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE
Pre-bid Conference on Eligibility Documents Requirement	8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	DAR-PARPO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Pre-bid Conference on Terms of Reference (TOR)	9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	-same-

6. Bids must be delivered to the **Office of the BAC Secretariat** not later than **6 June 2012 (Wednesday), 8:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

7. Opening of bids shall be conducted starting **8:00 AM** at the **DAR-PARPO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected.

8. The DAR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, and may not award the contract without incurring any liability and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding when the funds of the programs/projects/activity has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the DAR at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

9. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat, through Engr. Joey G. Sumalde , at the Office of the Director for Administrative Service, Ground Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, at telefax number (02) 455-5605, or email address **www.darbacsec@gmail.com**

(Sgd.) **FELIS PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(ITB – May 31, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE AUDIT OF HACIENDA LUISITA, INCORPORATED

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), complying with the dispositive portion of G.R No. 171101 entitled "Hacienda Luisita Inc., Luisita Industrial Park Corp. and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. vs. Presidential Agrarian Reform Council, Secretary of the Agrarian Reform, et. al." (www.sc.judiciary.gov.ph/jurisprudence/2012/may2012/171101.htm) invites prospective bidders for the procurement of services for the audit of Hacienda Luisita, Inc.

2. The DAR now calls for the submission of Expression of Interest (EOI), together with the eligibility, technical and financial documents for the procurement of services for landholdings of Hacienda Luisita. Interested land surveying firms may submit their documents on or before 6 June 2012 (Wednesday) 8:00 AM at the PARPO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

3. Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIR-A) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to aliens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

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(Sgd.) **FELIS PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(ITB – May 31, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMON SERVICE FACILITIES FOR ABACA PRODUCTION UNDER THE ARCCESS PROJECT

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), utilizing its continuing appropriation under the General Appropriations Act of 2011, intends to apply the amount of Twenty One Million Pesos (Php 21,000,000.00) being the approved Budget for the Contracts/ABC to the procurement of the following common service facilities for abaca production under the ARCCESS Project:

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)
CSF-001	Drying Tent	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-002	Fiber Cleaning Machine	100	Php 2,000,000.00
CSF-003	Fiber Grading Table	100	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-004	Fiber Baler	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-005	Grinding Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-006	Fiber Dehydrator	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-007	Bunchy Top Sampling Kit	100	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-008	Bunchy Top Detection Kit	100	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-009	Fiber Testing Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-010	Fiber Grading Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-011	Fiber Stripping Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-012	Fiber Decorticating Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-013	Fiber Extractor	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-014	Fiber Spinning Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-015	Fiber Weaving Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-016	Fiber Dyeing Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-017	Fiber Bleaching Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-018	Fiber Drying Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-019	Fiber Cutting Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-020	Fiber Sewing Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00

Note: Bidder may choose to bid for a particular lot only.

Delivery of the Goods shall be made by the Supplier to the different DAR Regional Offices as required not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after winning Bidder's receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

1. The DAR now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the above-mentioned activities. Bidders should have completed within the last 3 years prior to the date of submission of bids a contract similar to the Project within the minimum amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC for lot no. one. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section 3 of Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRA) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to aliens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

3. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals and the criteria and rating system for the evaluation in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB) Clause 29.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available to interested Bidders starting **17 May 2012** (Thursday). It may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (**www.philgeps.net**) and the website of the Procuring Entity (**www.dar.gov.ph**). Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php5,000.00) for the set of Bidding Documents, not later than the deadline for submission of their bids.

The DAR-BAC will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** on **22 May 2012** (Tuesday) as the following schedules which shall be open to all interested parties. Please be advised that only prospective bidders who have paid the non-refundable fee prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference will be allowed to participate in the conference. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each prospective bidder will be allowed due to space limitations.

ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE
Pre-bid Conference on Eligibility Documents Requirement	8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	DAR-PARPO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Pre-bid Conference on Terms of Reference (TOR)	9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	-same-

5. Bids must be delivered to the **Office of the BAC Secretariat** not later than **6 June 2012 (Wednesday), 8:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

6. Opening of bids shall be conducted starting **8:00 AM** at the **DAR-PARPO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected.

7. The DAR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, and may not award the contract without incurring any liability and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding when the funds of the programs/projects/activity has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the DAR at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

8. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat, through Engr. Joey G. Sumalde , at the Office of the Director for Administrative Service, Ground Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, at telefax number (02) 455-5605, or email address **www.darbacsec@gmail.com**

(Sgd.) **FELIS PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(ITB – May 31, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMON SERVICE FACILITIES FOR COCONUT PRODUCTION UNDER THE ARCCESS PROJECT

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), utilizing its continuing appropriation under the General Appropriations Act of 2011, intends to apply the amount of Twenty One Million Pesos (Php 21,000,000.00) being the approved Budget for the Contracts/ABC to the procurement of the following common service facilities for coconut production under the ARCCESS Project:

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)
CSF-001	Drying Tent	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-002	Fiber Cleaning Machine	100	Php 2,000,000.00
CSF-003	Fiber Grading Table	100	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-004	Fiber Baler	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-005	Grinding Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-006	Fiber Dehydrator	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-007	Bunchy Top Sampling Kit	100	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-008	Bunchy Top Detection Kit	100	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-009	Fiber Testing Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-010	Fiber Grading Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-011	Fiber Stripping Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-012	Fiber Decorticating Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-013	Fiber Extractor	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-014	Fiber Spinning Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-015	Fiber Weaving Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-016	Fiber Dyeing Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-017	Fiber Bleaching Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-018	Fiber Drying Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-019	Fiber Cutting Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00
CSF-020	Fiber Sewing Machine	1	Php 1,000,000.00

Note: Bidder may choose to bid for a particular lot only.

Delivery of the Goods shall be made by the Supplier to the different DAR Regional Offices as required not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after winning Bidder's receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

1. The DAR now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the above-mentioned activities. Bidders should have completed within the last 3 years prior to the date of submission of bids a contract similar to the Project within the minimum amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC for lot no. one. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section 3 of Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRA) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to aliens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

3. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals and the criteria and rating system for the evaluation in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB) Clause 29.

4. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available to interested Bidders starting **17 May 2012** (Thursday). It may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (**www.philgeps.net**) and the website of the Procuring Entity (**www.dar.gov.ph**). Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos Only (Php5,000.00) for the set of Bidding Documents, not later than the deadline for submission of their bids.

The DAR-BAC will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** on **22 May 2012** (Tuesday) as the following schedules which shall be open to all interested parties. Please be advised that only prospective bidders who have paid the non-refundable fee prior to the scheduled Pre-Bid Conference will be allowed to participate in the conference. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each prospective bidder will be allowed due to space limitations.

ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE
Pre-bid Conference on Eligibility Documents Requirement	8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	DAR-PARPO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Pre-bid Conference on Terms of Reference (TOR)	9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	-same-

5. Bids must be delivered to the **Office of the BAC Secretariat** not later than **6 June 2012 (Wednesday), 8:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

6. Opening of bids shall be conducted starting **8:00 AM** at the **DAR-PARPO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representative. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected.

7. The DAR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, and may not award the contract without incurring any liability and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding when the funds of the programs/projects/activity has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the DAR at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

8. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat, through Engr. Joey G. Sumalde , at the Office of the Director for Administrative Service, Ground Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, at telefax number (02) 455-5605, or email address **www.darbacsec@gmail.com**

(Sgd.) **FELIS PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(ITB – May 31, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMON SERVICE FACILITIES FOR CORN PRODUCTION UNDER THE ARCCESS PROJECT

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) wishes to commence implementation under the General Appropriations Act of 2014 intends to apply the following amounts for the procurement of the following common service facilities for corn production under the ARCCESS Project:

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)
CSF-001	Tractor	10	Php5,000,000.00
CSF-002	Corn Sheller, Engine Driven	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-003	Corn Sheller	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-004	Recirculating Tray Dryer	10	Php5,000,000.00
CSF-005	Mechanical Seed Metering Planter	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-006	Backhoe	10	Php5,000,000.00

Note: Bidder may choose to bid for a particular lot only.

2. Delivery of the Goods to designated delivery area (different DAR Regional Offices) is required not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after winning bidder's receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

3. This DAR now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the above-mentioned facilities. Bidders should have completed within five (5) years prior to the date of submission of bids contracts similar to the Project with an aggregate amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC/Lot for the Tractor, and forty percent (40%) of the ABC/Lot for the Corn Sheller, Recirculating Tray Dryer, Mechanical Seed Metering Planter and Backhoe, particularly in Section 3 of Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Domestic Bidding (DB).

5. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated to the Technical and Financial Proposals and the method of rating certain factors that will be considered in the evaluation of bids in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available to interested Bidders starting 01 **May 2015 (Thursday)**. It may also be downloaded free from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph and the website of the Procuring Entity, **www.dar.gov.ph**. Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00 for the set of Bidding Documents. Bid shall be the deadline for submission of their bids.

The DAR-BAC will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** on **01 May 2015 (Thursday)** at the following schedule which shall be open to all interested parties. Please be advised that only prospective Bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents shall be allowed to participate in the conference. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each prospective Bidder will be allowed to attend the pre-bid conference.

ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference on Eligibility Documents and Requirements	1:00PM – 1:30PM	DAR Multi-Purpose Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Pre-Bid Conference on Technical Specifications	1:30PM – 3:00PM	- Same -

7. Bids must be delivered to the **Office of the BAC Secretariat** not later than 8 June 2015 (Monday) at 09:00. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.

8. Opening of bids shall be conducted starting **9:00 AM** at the **DAR-FAPCO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at bid opening.

9. The DAR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, and may not assume any liability to prospective bidders for doing so. In addition, DAR reserves the right to waive any non-conformity in any bid that does not affect the substance of the bid as well as any formality in the conformity of the bid that is not prejudicial to other bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat through Engr. Joey D. Gonzales, at the Office of the Director for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, or telefax number (02) 920-6332, or e-mail address www.darbacsec@gmail.com.

(sgd.) **FELIX PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(PN) - May 01 2015

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMON SERVICE FACILITIES FOR LIVESTOCK DAIRY PRODUCTION UNDER THE ARCCESS PROJECT

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) wishes to commence implementation under the General Appropriations Act of 2014 intends to apply the following amounts for the procurement of the following common service facilities for livestock dairy production under the ARCCESS Project:

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)
CSF-001	Milking Machine	1	Php1,000,000.00

Note: Bidder may choose to bid for a particular lot only.

2. Delivery of the Goods to designated delivery area (different DAR Regional Offices) is required not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after winning bidder's receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

3. The DAR now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the above-mentioned facilities. Bidders should have completed within five (5) years prior to the date of submission of bids contracts similar to the Project with an aggregate amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC/Lot for the Milking Machine, particularly in Section 3 of Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Domestic Bidding (DB).

5. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated to the Technical and Financial Proposals and the method of rating certain factors that will be considered in the evaluation of bids in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available to interested Bidders starting 01 **May 2015 (Thursday)**. It may also be downloaded free from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph and the website of the Procuring Entity, **www.dar.gov.ph**. Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00 for the set of Bidding Documents. Bid shall be the deadline for submission of their bids.

The DAR-BAC will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** on **01 May 2015 (Thursday)** at the following schedule which shall be open to all interested parties. Please be advised that only prospective Bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents shall be allowed to participate in the conference. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each prospective Bidder will be allowed to attend the pre-bid conference.

ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference on Eligibility Documents and Requirements	1:00PM – 1:30PM	DAR Multi-Purpose Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Pre-Bid Conference on Technical Specifications	1:30PM – 3:00PM	- Same -

7. Bids must be delivered to the **Office of the BAC Secretariat** not later than 8 June 2015 (Monday) at 09:00. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.

8. Opening of bids shall be conducted starting **9:00 AM** at the **DAR-FAPCO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at bid opening.

9. The DAR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, and may not assume any liability to prospective bidders for doing so. In addition, DAR reserves the right to waive any non-conformity in any bid that does not affect the substance of the bid as well as any formality in the conformity of the bid that is not prejudicial to other bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat through Engr. Joey D. Gonzales, at the Office of the Director for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, or telefax number (02) 920-6332, or e-mail address www.darbacsec@gmail.com.

(sgd.) **FELIX PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(PN) - May 01 2015

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMON SERVICE FACILITIES FOR PALM OIL AND RUBBER PRODUCTION UNDER THE ARCCESS PROJECT

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) wishes to commence implementation under the General Appropriations Act of 2014 intends to apply the following amounts for the procurement of the following common service facilities for palm oil and rubber production under the ARCCESS Project:

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)
CSF-001	Crawler Tractor	1	Php5,000,000.00
CSF-002	Backhoe	1	Php5,000,000.00
CSF-003	Grader (120hp)	1	Php5,000,000.00

Note: Bidder may choose to bid for a particular lot only.

2. Delivery of the Goods to designated delivery area (different DAR Regional Offices) is required not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after winning bidder's receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

3. This DAR now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the above-mentioned facilities. Bidders should have completed within five (5) years prior to the date of submission of bids contracts similar to the Project with an aggregate amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC/Lot for the Crawler Tractor, and forty percent (40%) of the ABC/Lot for the Backhoe and Grader, particularly in Section 3 of Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Domestic Bidding (DB).

5. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated to the Technical and Financial Proposals and the method of rating certain factors that will be considered in the evaluation of bids in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available to interested Bidders starting 01 **May 2015 (Thursday)**. It may also be downloaded free from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph and the website of the Procuring Entity, **www.dar.gov.ph**. Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00 for the set of Bidding Documents. Bid shall be the deadline for submission of their bids.

The DAR-BAC will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** on **01 May 2015 (Thursday)** at the following schedule which shall be open to all interested parties. Please be advised that only prospective Bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents shall be allowed to participate in the conference. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each prospective Bidder will be allowed to attend the pre-bid conference.

ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference on Eligibility Documents and Requirements	1:00PM – 1:30PM	DAR Multi-Purpose Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Pre-Bid Conference on Technical Specifications	1:30PM – 3:00PM	- Same -

7. Bids must be delivered to the **Office of the BAC Secretariat** not later than 8 June 2015 (Monday) at 09:00. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.

8. Opening of bids shall be conducted starting **9:00 AM** at the **DAR-FAPCO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at bid opening.

9. The DAR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, and may not assume any liability to prospective bidders for doing so. In addition, DAR reserves the right to waive any non-conformity in any bid that does not affect the substance of the bid as well as any formality in the conformity of the bid that is not prejudicial to other bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat through Engr. Joey D. Gonzales, at the Office of the Director for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, or telefax number (02) 920-6332, or e-mail address www.darbacsec@gmail.com.

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Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(PN) - May 01 2015

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMON SERVICE FACILITIES FOR ROOT PRODUCTION UNDER THE ARCCESS PROJECT

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) wishes to commence implementation under the General Appropriations Act of 2014 intends to apply the following amounts for the procurement of the following common service facilities for root production under the ARCCESS Project:

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)
CSF-001	Cassava Cutter	10	Php50,000.00
CSF-002	Chipper, 40 hp	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-003	Chipper, 40 hp	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-004	Feeding Table	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-005	Mechanical Dryer	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-006	Pelletizer	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-007	Pelletizer	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-008	Vulcanizing Machine	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-009	Crusher	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-010	Feeding Table	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-011	Feeding Table	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-012	Grating Machine	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-013	Grating Machine	10	Php1,000,000.00

Note: Bidder may choose to bid for a particular lot only.

2. Delivery of the Goods to designated delivery area (different DAR Regional Offices) is required not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after winning bidder's receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

3. The DAR now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the above-mentioned facilities. Bidders should have completed within five (5) years prior to the date of submission of bids contracts similar to the Project with an aggregate amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC/Lot for the Cassava Cutter, Chipper, Feeding Table, Mechanical Dryer, Pelletizer, Vulcanizing Machine, Crusher and Grating Machine, particularly in Section 3 of Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Domestic Bidding (DB).

5. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated to the Technical and Financial Proposals and the method of rating certain factors that will be considered in the evaluation of bids in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available to interested Bidders starting 01 **May 2015 (Thursday)**. It may also be downloaded free from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph and the website of the Procuring Entity, **www.dar.gov.ph**. Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00 for the set of Bidding Documents. Bid shall be the deadline for submission of their bids.

The DAR-BAC will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** on **01 May 2015 (Thursday)** at the following schedule which shall be open to all interested parties. Please be advised that only prospective Bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents shall be allowed to participate in the conference. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each prospective Bidder will be allowed to attend the pre-bid conference.

ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference on Eligibility Documents and Requirements	1:00PM – 1:30PM	DAR Multi-Purpose Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Pre-Bid Conference on Technical Specifications	1:30PM – 3:00PM	- Same -

7. Bids must be delivered to the **Office of the BAC Secretariat** not later than 8 June 2015 (Monday) at 09:00. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.

8. Opening of bids shall be conducted starting **9:00 AM** at the **DAR-FAPCO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at bid opening.

9. The DAR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, and may not assume any liability to prospective bidders for doing so. In addition, DAR reserves the right to waive any non-conformity in any bid that does not affect the substance of the bid as well as any formality in the conformity of the bid that is not prejudicial to other bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat through Engr. Joey D. Gonzales, at the Office of the Director for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, or telefax number (02) 920-6332, or e-mail address www.darbacsec@gmail.com.

(sgd.) **FELIX PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(PN) - May 01 2015

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMON SERVICE FACILITIES FOR VEGETABLES PRODUCTION UNDER THE ARCCESS PROJECT

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) wishes to commence implementation under the General Appropriations Act of 2014 intends to apply the following amounts for the procurement of the following common service facilities for vegetables production under the ARCCESS Project:

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)
CSF-001	Cultivator, 4 hp	10	Php50,000.00
CSF-002	Tractor, 40 hp	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-003	Tractor, 40 hp	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-004	Transplanter (Rice)	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-005	Transplanter (Rice)	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-006	Power Sprayer	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-007	Power Sprayer	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-008	Engine & Pumps	100	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-009	Engine & Pumps	100	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-010	Sprayer	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-011	Sprayer	10	Php1,000,000.00

Note: Bidder may choose to bid for a particular lot only.

2. Delivery of the Goods to designated delivery area (different DAR Regional Offices) is required not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after winning bidder's receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

3. The DAR now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the above-mentioned facilities. Bidders should have completed within five (5) years prior to the date of submission of bids contracts similar to the Project with an aggregate amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC/Lot for the Cultivator, Tractor, Transplanter, Power Sprayer, Engine & Pumps and Sprayer, particularly in Section 3 of Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Domestic Bidding (DB).

5. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated to the Technical and Financial Proposals and the method of rating certain factors that will be considered in the evaluation of bids in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents is available to interested Bidders starting 01 **May 2015 (Thursday)**. It may also be downloaded free from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph and the website of the Procuring Entity, **www.dar.gov.ph**. Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00 for the set of Bidding Documents. Bid shall be the deadline for submission of their bids.

The DAR-BAC will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** on **01 May 2015 (Thursday)** at the following schedule which shall be open to all interested parties. Please be advised that only prospective Bidders who have purchased the Bidding Documents shall be allowed to participate in the conference. A maximum of two (2) representatives from each prospective Bidder will be allowed to attend the pre-bid conference.

ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUE
Pre-Bid Conference on Eligibility Documents and Requirements	1:00PM – 1:30PM	DAR Multi-Purpose Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Pre-Bid Conference on Technical Specifications	1:30PM – 3:00PM	- Same -

7. Bids must be delivered to the **Office of the BAC Secretariat** not later than 8 June 2015 (Monday) at 09:00. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.

8. Opening of bids shall be conducted starting **9:00 AM** at the **DAR-FAPCO Conference Room, DAR Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the activity. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at bid opening.

9. The DAR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, and may not assume any liability to prospective bidders for doing so. In addition, DAR reserves the right to waive any non-conformity in any bid that does not affect the substance of the bid as well as any formality in the conformity of the bid that is not prejudicial to other bidders.

10. For further information, please refer to the BAC Secretariat through Engr. Joey D. Gonzales, at the Office of the Director for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, DAR Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, or telefax number (02) 920-6332, or e-mail address www.darbacsec@gmail.com.

(sgd.) **FELIX PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(PN) - May 01 2015

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform

INVITATION TO BID

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF COMMON SERVICE FACILITIES FOR CARABAN PRODUCTION UNDER THE ARCCESS PROJECT

1. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) wishes to commence implementation under the General Appropriations Act of 2014 intends to apply the following amounts for the procurement of the following common service facilities for caraban production under the ARCCESS Project:

LOT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT (ABC)
CSF-001	Tractor, 80 hp	10	Php5,000,000.00
CSF-002	Feeding Table	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-003	Mechanical Dryer	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-004	Pelletizer	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-005	Pelletizer	10	Php1,000,000.00
CSF-006	Vulcanizing Machine	10	Php1,000,000.00

Note: Bidder may choose to bid for a particular lot only.

2. Delivery of the Goods to designated delivery area (different DAR Regional Offices) is required not later than one hundred twenty (120) days after winning bidder's receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

3. The DAR now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the above-mentioned facilities. Bidders should have completed within five (5) years prior to the date of submission of bids contracts similar to the Project with an aggregate amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC/Lot for the Tractor, and forty percent (40%) of the ABC/Lot for the Feeding Table, Mechanical Dryer, Pelletizer and Vulcanizing Machine, particularly in Section 3 of Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations or joint ventures with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Domestic Bidding (DB).

5. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) Procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated to the Technical and Financial Proposals and the method of rating certain factors that will be considered in the evaluation of bids in the Bidding Documents.

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(sgd.) **FELIX PERRY A. VILLANUEVA**
Assistant Secretary
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Agrarian Reform

(PN) - May 01 2015

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GIL CLAUDIO "BOY" ALBAY CRISTOBAL (Ret. PN)
Died in the Grace of our Lord
on May 18, 2012 at the age of 72.
His funeral will take place at the Heritage Park, Taguig City.
His remains lie in state at Harrison Memorial Homes, D. Aquino Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment will be on May 22, 2012, Tuesday at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." - John 11:25-26

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CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC), invites Consulting Firms to Apply for Eligibility and Short listing for the hereunder project.

Name of Project	Brief Description of the Project	Type	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Type of Procurement	Evaluation Procedure
Conceptualization and Development of an Integrated Health Information Hotline Business	To develop and produce an integrated health information 43 for victorias.	Nec	PHP 1,000,000.00	Public Bidding	Quality Cost Based Selection

1. The DOH now calls for the submission of eligibility documents, interested Consulting Firms must submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for eligibility and short listing for the above-consulting services project on or before **29 May 2012, 10:00 A.M.** at OP Building 6, COBAC Conference Room, Sen Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the date of the Opening of the Eligibility Documents, **29 May 2012, 10:00 A.M.** at OP Building 6, COBAC Conference Room. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discriminatory "pass/fail" criterion.
2. The COBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents/all expressions of interest and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with Sections 23.1 of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be considered. The contract will be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post qualification.
The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the instructions to Bidders.
4. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE). Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 70% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated.
5. Interested consulting firms may obtain further information from the Department of Health at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Consulting firms **should download and order** the REI at the PhilGEPS website, (www.philgeps.gov) or through facsimile at 809-50-21 to 38.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any BAC to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids and may not award the contract without incurring any liability and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding if the physical and economic conditions have significantly changed so as to render the project no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the DOH, if the project is no longer necessary as determined by the DOH and when the funds for the program project/activity has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the DOH at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

COBAC SECRETARIAT
Department of Health
2nd Floor Building 6, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz Manila 1003
Tel. No. 651-7800 Loc. 1021 ... 1023 Telefax No. 741-9779
Website: www.doh.gov.ph; Email: cobacsecretariat@yahoo.com.ph

Approved by:

(Sgd.) HERMILIO B. GARCIA, MD, MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary (Health)
Chairperson, COBAC

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

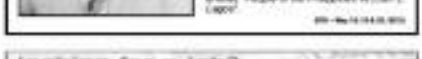
This is to inform the public that Mr. Jaime Macalintal Landicho whose photo appears above is no longer connected with Medical Center Parañaque, Inc. as Finance Manager effective May 15, 2012.

Any transaction entered with the aforementioned party for and on behalf of Medical Center Parañaque Inc. shall not be honored and disavowed.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Mr. ERWIN L. LAGOS** of Loyola DEL whose picture appears herein, has been previously terminated for cause effective May 18, 2012 and is no longer connected with **Luckyanita Enterprises**, Inc. (Luckyanita) any transaction made by him on behalf of Luckyanita and/or its clients **Quaissens Business, Inc.** and **Wynsyn, Inc.** after his termination will not be honored.

A criminal case for Estafa against Mr. Lagos is currently pending before Branch 210 of the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City docketed as "Criminal Case No. Q-11-171881 and entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Erwin L. Lagos".



ECOP: Wage hike not solution to workers' woes

WHY SHOULD employers be the one to bear the brunt every time workers complain of facing difficulty in making both ends meet due to the erosion in their purchasing power?

Employers raised this question as they maintained in yesterday's public hearing conducted by the National Capital Region (NCR) Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) that wage hikes through the years have not solved workers' woes.

ECOP Acting President Rene V. Soriano said government's thrust of job generation which ECOP fully supports is the right approach coupled with "holistic solutions."

He said "holistic solutions" that will address spiraling inflation, cost of doing business in the country, competitiveness, growing poverty and joblessness will reboot the plight of both businesses and workers.

"Will wage increase create jobs? The resounding answer is no," Soriano emphasized, pointing out that wages adjustments will left to "market forces." "Most economies the conditions of vulnerable workers. "What has been happening is that the formal sector is shrinking and the informal sector is expanding," Soriano emphasized.

Lawyer Antonio H. Abad Jr., ECOP Governor and Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU) legal counsel, said it's about time that the government seriously consider other solutions than a wage increase such as widening the scope of tax credits and exemptions as well as food prices, rent and transport fares.

"Raising the minimum wage will only contribute to inflation because of its ripple effects," Abad argued.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr., witnessed by Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo and Deputy Governor Juan de Zuniga Jr., inducts the newly-elected officers of the Association of Bank Remittance Officers, Inc. (ABROI) during the Induction Ceremony held April 18, 2012 in Manila. The ABROI represents the industry in issues concerning OFW remittances, and is composed of officers from 12 Philippine banks active in providing remittance services to OFWs. From left to right: Ms. Melinda Dalay-of-BPI (Auditor), Mr. Raoul Bolaños of BDO (Treasurer); Ms. Tina Cuyo of ALBI (Secretary); Ms. Emerge Inocencio of DBP (PRO); Ms Ed Abad of Allied Bank (Vice President); Ms. Cynthia Santos of RCBC (President); and BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. Other member banks of ABROI are: Bank of Commerce, China Bank, Land Bank, Philippine National Bank, Metro Bank and UCPB.

Pag-IBIG files cases vs. 57 employers for non-registration

OFFICIALS OF 57 COMPANIES FACE the possibility of imprisonment after the Pag-IBIG Fund filed cases against their establishments for non-registration of their employees in the first trimester of the 2012. Of the number, 19 employers are in the National Capital Region and 38 in other parts of the country.

Pag-IBIG has stepped up its enforcement campaign, urging employers to register as required by law. Republic Act 9679, or the Pag-IBIG Fund Law of 2009, mandates Pag-IBIG membership for individuals earning at least P1,000 and their respective employers.

"It is the Fund's obligation to ensure that employers comply with their obligation to register their employees. Non-registration means that their employees are deprived of their benefits as employees and as Pag-IBIG Fund members," said Atty. Darlene Marie B. Berberabe, Pag-IBIG Chief Executive Officer.

Pag-IBIG General Counsel Atty. Robert John S. Cortes expects more cases to be filed against several employers found to be unregistered with the Pag-IBIG within the next few months. Pag-IBIG, though, is strengthened partnership with local government units, has been able to identify employers who remain unregistered with the Pag-IBIG.

The Fund is strongly urging unregistered employers to avail of its Penalty Condonation Program to register and settle the required contributions of its employees to avoid being charged for non-registration. Under the law, refusal or failure to comply with the Pag-IBIG law is punishable by imprisonment of not more than six years or a fine of not less than, but not more than twice, the amounts involved, or both.

Pag-IBIG's Penalty Condonation Program will run until 30 June 2012 only.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. VI

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following employer/employment have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit(s):

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position/Job Description of Foreigner
1.	[illegible]	Mr. Fukushiro Tomonori (Japanese)	Executive Technical Advisor
2.	[illegible]	Mr. Ken Hirakawa (Japanese)	President
3.	[illegible]	Mr. Atsushi Sakai (Japanese)	Quality Control Manager
4.	[illegible]	Mr. Kazuo Ando (Japanese)	CEO Chairman
5.	[illegible]	Mr. Kazuo Nakajima (Japanese)	Construction Manager
6.	[illegible]	Mr. Kazuo Kuwa (Japanese)	Construction Supervisor

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with this Regional Division.

ALEX V. AVILA
OIC-Regional Director

(PEN - May 20, 2012)

INVITATION TO BID

One of the Largest Universal Bank in the Philippines invites suppliers and service providers to BID for the following:

1. Corporate Uniform for 7,500 employees
2. Canteen Concessionaire for three (3) buildings and one Executive Lounge

Interested bidders may send their letter of intent, business profile (must include resume/list of clients) and proposal to:

BID FOR UNIFORMS
MC P.O. Box 1827
Makati City 1200

BID FOR CANTEEN CONCESSIONAIRE
MC P.O. Box 1827
Makati City 1200

Deadline for submission of documents will be on May 25, 2012

(PEN - May 20, 2012)

Prof. Amasnico, world's foremost dental expert to grace UPCD's June 10 symposium

PROF. BENEDITO J. AMASNICO, one of the world's most recognized dental experts and editor and contributing author of the foremost textbook in dental materials, will be the main speaker at the University of the Philippines College of Dentistry Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics Symposium on Sunday, June 10 at the UDX Convention Center in Pasay City.

Jointly and exclusively organized by the UP Dental Alumni Association led by its President, Dr. Annie C. Reyno, and the Class of 1991, the Symposium, "Restoring the Sink for Restoration Failure: What Do You Need To Know About Proven and Improven Preventive, Restorative and Prosthodontics Materials?" also upholds another Prosthodontics topic. Prof. Josephine Inspired Updates from the University of Florida. The symposium will tackle timely and relevant issues and address concerns such as ethical reasons for placement and replacement of dental amalgam and resin-based composites, esthetic limitations of composite crowns and bridges, dental cements and resin cements, how to take accurate impressions, custom restorations and crown designs, and how to maximize the survival of direct and indirect restorations, among other things.

Prof. Amasnico, who holds the ranks of Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Second Research Professor at the University of Florida, was Professor and Chair of the Department of Dental Biomaterials, a position he held for 26 years. In 1995, he took over the editorship of the dental materials textbook, "Phillips's Science of Dental Materials," considered the most read textbook in dentistry which has been translated into Spanish, Portuguese and Indonesian. Aside from being editor and contributing author of the textbook, Prof. Amasnico is also a reviewer and senior editor of numerous international peer reviewed scientific journals and contributor of chapters in several other reference books in dentistry. Prof. Amasnico is a two-time recipient of the Distinguished Lecturer Award given by both the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics and the American College of Prosthodontists. He was also named Teacher of the Year at the University of Florida. Dr. Inspired-Updates, on the other hand, graduated from UP Manila in 1981 and earned her MS in Prosthodontics from the Northwestern University in Illinois. She has also written numerous research and scientific articles in scientific journals and is a contributor of several book chapters.

Registration fees for the Symposium are: P3,500 until June 1 and P4,500 from June 4 and onsite. For complete information about the symposium, please visit www.dentalpages.com/symposiums/amasnico or call Dr. Annie Reyno at 0917-5305-862 and 8922-882-7640. Those who are interested to attend are encouraged to register early as slots are limited.

dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Request for Expression of Interest for 57 Unlicensed Enterprise Program 1 (UEP 1)

Date Filed	[illegible]
Name of Project	[illegible]
Project Location	[illegible]

Item	Yes	No
[illegible]		
[illegible]		
[illegible]		

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- Fresh graduates may apply as SALES TRAINEE

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